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HISTORY  
OF  
*N. J.*  
Passaic and Its Environs

BY  
WILLIAM W. SCOTT



*Historical—Biographical*



*V. 1*  
VOLUME I

1922

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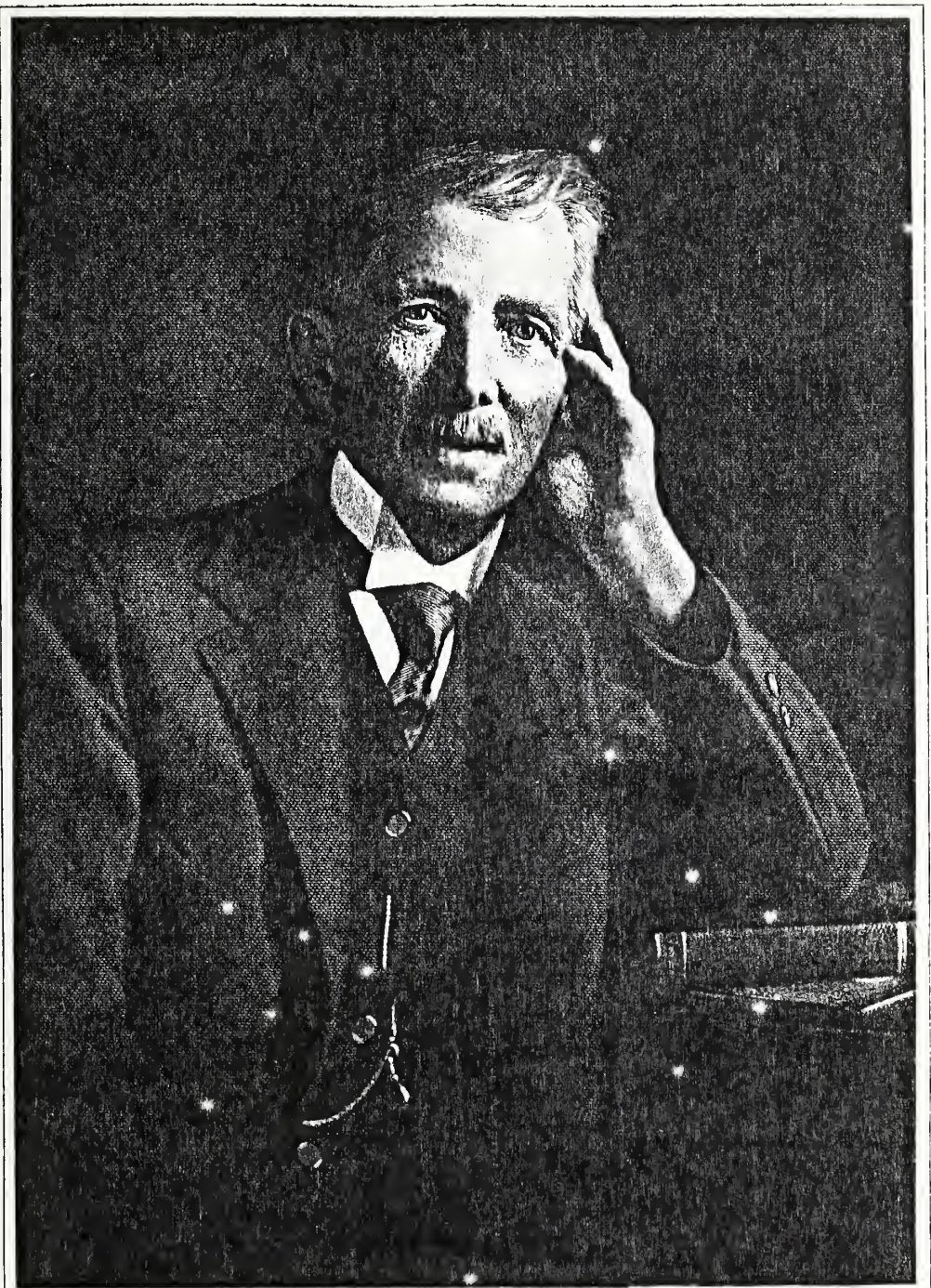
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## FOREWORD.

This work includes Passaic and Clifton, in the county of Passaic, and Garfield and Wallington in the county of Bergen. The ancient history of Passaic was written by the editor of this work in 1899, that of the others never was written. One cannot fail to congratulate the first settlers of Passaic and Clifton in the good judgment displayed in their selection of the Acquackanonk patent tract of land. At that time there was no scarcity of land in the present, and adjoining, counties, but nothing equal to this. They were Dutch-farmers or farmers' sons, from Holland, where windmills and water were abundant, and here while they could dispense with the former, they could replace it with something better—an undershot or overshot, mill wheel—if they had the water. Although tillers of the soil, they had among them a master mind in mechanics, Elias Vreeland, who saw the future industrial possibilities of this region. But aside from this, the topography of the country hereabouts was beautiful, no section presenting so attractive a countour. There were, as today, real hills, but not so high or steep as to be useless, except to look at, and large plains, with most pleasing undulations breaking the monotony of sameness, while in the distance a real mountain presented attractive cliffs. The heights of Garfield, covered with tall, hefty timber, looked down upon the river Passaic, then a most beautiful stream, broad and deep, fringed with densely tropical growths of trees, vines and shrubs. Notwithstanding the hills, particularly the Garfield one, neither that city nor Passaic is—

"One of those places that have run  
Half up the hill, beneath the blazing sun,  
And then sat down to rest, as if to say:  
I climb no farther upward, come what may."

But both have gone over the top, in the accomplishment of which, and the development of the plains below the hills on both sides of the river, it will be necessary to go back nearly two and a half centuries, and visit these little hamlets at the head of tide water of the longest river in the (then) colony of New Jersey, and learn something of their history, and of the generations that have lived, toiled and died amidst these cheerful hills, smiling valley, of this most beautiful country, whose sky line today is most fascinating, presenting handsome residences, churches and schools, most diverse and attractive in designs, and embellished with well kept lawns, trees, shrubs and vines, second to none in all the state, of all which owners are proud and cry for more.

The four municipalities are clustered together along the Passaic river. The first to be settled was Passaic, in 1678 which acquired the





name of Acquackanonk, where an Indian trading post was established, and which became the greatest shipping port in northern New Jersey, for the products of the farms, forests and mines, and so remained until the railroad pushed aside forever the scores of vehicles loaded and empty, that had lined all roads leading to Acquackanonk Landing—the name of this port.

Garfield was discovered by a white man in 1679, and given the name of Acquackanonk, too. Later it became and remained a part of the township of Saddle River until incorporated as a borough.

Wallington was first settled about 1680, when it was part of New Barbadoes Neck. Later it was in the township of Lodi, then in the township of Bergen.

The Low Dutch, or Hollanders, were the first settlers in all but Garfield, nearly all of whose first white men were Englishmen, not of common red, but of blue blood variety, who intended to reserve it for wealthy Englishmen, who would lay out the land in large tracts, upon which would be erected castles, manors and everything in keeping with an English estate. But nothing was done. Governor Carteret selected the highest point, in the present city, for his manor, where until recent years some of the foundation stones of his intended home might be seen.

Passaic is the metropolis of these communities around which they revolve, and to her is owing the credit of their existence, which is told in detail in the following pages. Passaic is in latitude 40° 51' north and longitude 74° 07' west from Greenwich, and has an average altitude of nearly 75 feet above the sea. Passaic is served by four steam railroads, Clifton by three, Garfield by two. Wallington has none, although the Bergen County Short Cut runs across her extreme southeasterly end of which, however, she makes no use. Garfield and Wallington have one trolley each, while Clifton and Passaic have each three. While all are situated on the Passaic River, only Passaic and Wallington derive any benefit from navigation. Of the four only Passaic and Garfield have each a perfect sewer system. Clifton is now taking steps to construct one ready to connect with the Big Drain when that is completed. Each municipality is honestly and efficiently governed by capable men, Passaic only having Commission government by five men which has proved a success. The rapid growth of the four is wonderful. The following are figures of population in the census of June, 1920:

Passaic .....	63,824
Clifton .....	26,470
Garfield .....	19,381
Wallington .....	5,715

showing an average gain of about seventy-five per cent. over the last census. The growth continues and will be greater during the next decade. But there is reason for this. There is scarcely another spot on





the state that can compare to this for the variety presented in the typography of the country: hill, vale and level land, in modes of travel,—rail, trolley, boat; in its schools,—all kinds; in its religion,—all denominations; in its manufactures—mills for making almost every known article of commerce; newspapers—two wide awake dailies.

It is safe to assert that there is not another community in this country more progressive, energetic and pushing than Passaic and its environs. Passaic was among the first communities in the state to have a steam railroad, and the first to have a trolley road in practical operation continued uninterruptedly to this day. The first bridge across the Passaic river was at Passaic. The first real estate transaction in northern New Jersey was for land in Passaic, which now forms part of First Ward Park. Passaic had the first church, the first school, the first store, and the first tavern in the county and the first Sunday School in the state, all of which have helped to make of her the first class city she is today.

Lodi. Because Lodi was not considered an environ of Passaic, the editor hesitated, when it came to writing that borough's history, but the demand for it has been so great as to induce him to comply.

Lodi's history, covering a period of more than 250 years, goes back to Colonial days, treating of customs found in none of the other municipalities treated of in this work.

In addition to the historical part of the work, there is furnished biographical sketches of many of the best known and leading citizens of the several communities, by Charles W. Schlegel, who is second to none in the important department of historical research, without which the work would have fallen short of the object of the editor—to give the reader all information possible concerning the cities and boroughs referred to and the men who assisted in building them and who keep pushing things.



# PASSAIC

## CHAPTER I.

### INDIANS—THEIR CUSTOMS, SPORTS, DRESS HABITS, AND RELIGION.

"The Native of this happy spot  
No cares of vain ambition haunt;  
Pleased with the partner of his nest  
Life flows—and when the dream is out  
The earth that once supplied each want  
Receives him—fainting—to her breast."

—*Philip Freneau.*

For a long time it was supposed and believed that the Indian was the first to settle in the present United States, but the comparatively recent discoveries by Dr. Charles C. Abbott, of Trenton, of certain rude stone implements, inferior in make to those of the Indians, indicate that the race of men who had made them there must have lived near the close of the last Glacial epoch, if not before; that is, when the climate of this part of the country resembled that of the Arctic regions of today. In this same glacial drift, tucked away several feet below the surface, at Trenton, have been discovered the tusk of a mastodon, bones of Greenland reindeer, the walrus, caribou, moose and musk-ox, together with bones of human beings. All these go to show that New Jersey was inhabited at this period, and by a race much lower in civilization than the Indians of the time of Columbus.

The inference is strong that the Eskimo accompanied the advance of the great ice-sheet, and probably retreated with it northward. In point of time this may have been ten thousand or a million years before the advent of the Indian, whose origin is unknown to us, remaining as much a mystery as is the destiny of man after death. Instead, therefore, of entering the field of speculation concerning the Indian's origin, known facts regarding them, and more particularly of the tribes who were the owners, as well as the possessors of the region in and about the City of Passaic will be stated as briefly as possible, which, however, is no easy task considering all that is known of them; particularly when we realize that for centuries they lived upon the same ground, moved about over the same territory, and rowed and fished in the familiar streams that we now lay claim to.

When the white man first set foot upon the soil of New Jersey, he was perhaps surprised to find the country inhabited by red men, who were citizens of no mean nation—the Algonkins. Among the innumerable independent nations of the Algonkins was one known as *Lenapi* or *Lenni Lenapi* (pronounced Len-ah-pay) meaning "original or pure





Indian." This name first appeared about the date of the Acquackanonk Patent (1684-5) or within five years thereafter. The name being similar to *Lenape* leads to the conclusion that the name *Lenapi* is simply a translation of the Indian word *Lenape* meaning "*Our Nation.*" Fighting men they were, and boasted of it; so much so, in fact, that in 1693 a delegation of these identical Indians most solemnly declared in convention: "*Although wee are a small number of Indians, yet wee are men, and know fighting.*" The word "men" was discreetly used, inasmuch as the females of this nation never engaged in either scrimmage or battles, as their sisters of the other nations did; they cared for the wounded, the dying and the dead, or furnished subsistence to the fighters, sometimes following them for many miles.

In 1694 this nation acquired the name of *Delawares*.

The Lenni Lenapi tribe of the great Algonkin nation of Indians was one in occupation and possession of what is now New Jersey when Christopher Columbus discovered America. Where did they come from? A legend among them says they came from the West—beyond a great muddy river—where their ancestors had lived for hundreds of years. Desiring a change, and to satisfy a craving to see more of the country, they crossed this (Mississippi) River, and after many years gradually worked their way eastward where, to their surprise they found a nation of Indians in possession. This was the Mengwe, which years before had likewise emigrated from the far West, having settled far to the north, along this river. The region to the east of the river was in the actual ownership of warlike Indians, who were a little more progressive in the arts of war than the Algonkins, having many fortified towns. They were known as the Talligewi or Talligeu people. They opposed the settling of the Lenapi among them, but permitted them to pass through their country to the East. When, however, they saw the many thousands of the Lenapi they became alarmed and made war upon them, which continued many years without any success. Finally the Talligewi people retreated to the South. The Lenapi remained for hundreds of years, gradually spreading out until they finally settled in New Jersey. The date of their coming here is calculated to have been about the year 976 A. D.

The Indians of New Jersey were well built and strong, with very broad shoulders and small waists; dark eyes; snow white and well preserved, almost perfect teeth down to old age; coarse black hair, of which the men left but a single tuft (scalp lock) on the top of the head, convenient for an enemy's scalping knife, and which the women thrust into a bag on the back of the head. Few or none were cross-eyed, blind, crippled or deformed. They preserved their skins by anointing them with fish oil, and turkey and raccoon greases, which was considered the best protection against blistering, freezing and insect bites. In order to preserve smooth faces, the men plucked every hair which had the





courage to show itself. Both sexes painted their faces, bodies, arms and legs, using colors obtained from finely crushed stone, plants, tree bark, or shells. The women painted to a greater extent than the men, more to show off their charms than as a protection to their skin. Their breasts and backs in many instances were adorned with pictures in all the colors of a rainbow, while the lower part of the leg was even more rich in colors.

Usually, as they lived mainly by hunting and fishing, their huts or wigwams were temporary affairs—easily removed; but this did not apply to the Indians in and about Passaic, which was noted as the finest fishing place on the river, for the larger species of fish, particularly shad, in the early Spring, which came up the river to spawn in great schools, to be followed by various kinds of trout which inhabited the river for at least a mile north of the present Wall Street bridge; contiguous to which was what the Indians termed the “fish play ground,” and where the white man years later discovered shad by the thousands every Spring. Eels also were abundant. Immediately north of Monroe Street and about 300 feet above the former Dundee Island was the famous “Eel Hole” of the Indians, and where many of the stones that formed the Indians’ eel weir may still be seen, while further up the river at frequent intervals, to Ackerman Avenue bridge, hundreds of stones, still to be seen in the river, are mute witnesses of a great fishing industry carried on by Indians between (probably) the years 976 and 1676 A. D., or earlier. If they could only speak! What a thrilling story they could tell, not only of the part they played in the construction of the fish dams, of which they were a part, but describing to us the most noted of those men who, every day in season, came for the fish! And such fish, the size of which might startle the most capable angler of the twentieth century. Hunting and fowling also were good. At that period Passaic was surrounded by great forests; those covering the present Garfield-Plauderville sections were noted for large, wild animals, including bears, and this is why the territory lying east of Plauderville is still called “Bear’s Nest.” There were several extra good fowling districts. The best one included the territory extending from the former mills of Reid and Barry, northerly to Dundee Lake, which was an extensive marsh covered with bush, brush, and small trees of low growth. Wallington, between Schouhank hill and the river, was a famous duck ground, as nearly the whole of this vast tract was marshy, being covered by water of varying depths. A branch of the river commenced at the present Eighth Street bridge, flowed southerly along the hill, at an average depth of six feet, so far as Bleachery road, where it circled toward the west, until it reached the main stream again, at a point, approximately, 500 feet north of the Erie railroad bridge, where may still be seen a portion of that old outlet.

Another advantage possessed by this locality was arable land, all



cleared, ready to cultivate, of which about 110 acres lay at their front door, especially adapted for the cultivating of maize or Indian corn. In addition to what is known as Dundee proper, that for ages had been used for raising corn, there was the "Maize Lot" included in John J. Vreeland's tract of ninety-six acres, lying between the river and Parker Avenue, reaching from Sherman Street to the Dundee Dam, which also for age on age had been used by the Indians for the growing of corn only.

These many natural advantages were sufficient inducements for a permanent settlement or village, which was located along the Passaic river, extending from Essex Street eastwardly to the present Wall Street bridge, surrounding on its south and east sides an island, by the Indians known as Menehenicke, by the Dutch *Hartman's Island*, but since, about 1857 until 1916, as *Dundee Island* when, by filling in the rived that flowed on its westerly side, the old landmark ceased to exist, and now forms part of the recreation centre known as First Ward Park, but for which a most appropriate name would be Menehenicke park.

Their village was located in the Dundee section, covering most of the land lying east of Second Street, made up of cabins, built of timber covered with grass, sea weed, branches and twigs. Many of them were 7x24 feet, accommodating twelve persons. Some were larger; these belonged to the tribesmen, or heads of the clan, who with their families occupied them. Around and about these larger tents, were several small ones—seven, to be exact, which accommodated two men each. These men were the body guard, sharp shooters, picked men, who accompanied the tribesman in his travels, and when at home acted as guards of the village.

In addition, there were the cabins of the sachems, medicine men, or physicians, teachers or scribes who acted in the capacity of counselors, to advise the people generally, guiding their spiritual affairs. A body of seven selected scribes composed the cabinet of the chief holding office at the pleasure of their king. These cabins were on the bank of the river and extended from Sixth Street to about the present Wall Street bridge. In addition were the cabins of the common people, which stood on the ground where now Passaic and Wall Streets are, east of Sixth Street. This village was the largest of any in this neighborhood, numbering about 500, out of a population of 2,000 scattered over this and Bergen County. Another village was at Hackensack, but not so large as the one here, which being more central, was used as a meeting place for conventions, and for the settling of all controversies in a court held once a year in November.

Connected with this village was a burying ground, located on the line of Fourth Street, between Essex and Bergen, over which the Indians exercised as much care as they did over their cabins. The writer has skeleton bones of bodies that were dug up here some thirty





years ago. Every tooth is perfect in the jaws of a man perhaps fifty years old.

In those days the land extending from Essex Street to President Street was a dense woods, in which the Indians hunted, and the stream known as the Weasel Brook, which ran through it, was at least double its size of later years, and afforded good fishing for them. This brook was alive with muskrats and trout, and was familiar ground for the Indians, who left along the stream arrow heads, hatchets, pestels, celts and other things which in later years were found there.

These Indians were great fishermen, and their fishing place in the river extended from the present President Street to the Dundee Dam. They constructed stone dams across the river about 500 feet apart. In the center of each they built a fish weir, or wooden crib, about five feet wide, through which the current flowed carrying the fish with it, but while the water flowed through, the fish could not, and thus were caught.

Below on the river fishing was done with nets, made of grass, and in the spring great quantities of shad were caught. Fishing was done all the year round. While the Indians had game and fish to eat in abundance, they also used an unleavened bread, made of maize or Indian corn. All that portion of Dundee south of Bergen Street was used for the cultivation of corn, while the land extending from President Street to the Dundee Dam was called by the Indians the "maize lot," and by them was cultivated for centuries. They raised no vegetables, which to them were unknown. Other fields were cultivated by them, scattered over parts of the present city. In particular, the land from Passaic to Monroe Streets, between Weasel Brook and the Erie Railroad, was one field of corn.

The Indians of this region were not war-like; they treated the white settlers kindly and showed a friendly feeling from their first appearance. This was unusual, as in nearly every other locality they acted in a hostile manner, and did much to gain the enmity of the white man. But the latter began these hostilities, which the Indians resented by acts of murder, thefts and assaults simply in retaliation.

Although the Indians were strong and rugged and free from organic diseases, as a rule they suffered much from rheumatism, which afflicted very many over the age of forty years. As a race they were short lived, few living beyond sixty years.

They were kind and sympathetic to the sick and crippled or disabled and established sick houses, placed in charge of their doctors or medicine men. There were at least two sick houses, consisting of caves dug in the side of a hill. One of them was on the river bank, on property now known as Speer's Chateau; another was opposite the present Birch company's lumber yard, River Drive, where at the present time there is a large hole, caused by the digging of sand. These sick houses were capable of accommodating about twenty persons each—men, wo-





men and children—who laid upon the floor, with skins of animals, which they had in plenty, for covering. In winter a wood fire was kept going, the smoke from which escaped through a hole at the top.

The Indians had their days of celebration, the greatest one being held at harvest moon, when, for a week, they would enjoy themselves in games, sports and dancing. Various tribes would gather in the woods and fields of Dundee Island, here in our city, and also at what is now Delawanna, in the rear of the car house, Franklin Avenue. The ground used by the Yountakah Field club was the scene of most of their games and dancing, and from the latter place and the river, which was then a much wider and deeper stream, more like the Passaic river, was known as Kantacaw, which, in the Indian tongue, meant dancing. By this name it was known many years, until in writing the name the "K" was taken for a "Y," and hence Yantacaw. It seems a pity that the old name of Kantacaw should not have been retained, instead of the meaningless one of Delawanna.

Many arrowheads, hatchets, celts and other Indian articles have been found in the woods and along the river, some of which even now are found there.

The Indians, both men and women, were fond of horses and were good riders, and in the early Fall races, would be run for prizes. A famous track was along the river in Garfield, from the present Passaic Street bridge to Outwater Lane. Here would assemble once a year noted riders of both sexes from far and near. Riding was bareback, a-straddle. From the start it was a go-as-you-please, the idea being to get there, and was not confined to either trotting or running.

Boat racing on the river was another sport in which they engaged, both men and women. The course was from the island down to about the foot of Park Place, during which the entire inhabitants witnessed the sport to encourage the contestants. Among the men wrestling and shooting were other contests of strength and skill, before the whole village. Aside from the fun, the Indians believed in the encouragement of all sports, believing that they made for stronger Indians, better prepared to act in defense of the people.

Indians were of a contented and happy disposition. Never having had much of this world's goods, they wanted little and were easily satisfied. Among them wealth circulated like the blood, all parts partaking. None could excel them in liberality with the little they had; nothing was too good for a friend. Their generous hospitality was always noted with admiration by travelers among them. The guest would be given a seat on a mat in the center of the wigwam, and invited to help himself out of the earthen pot which never knew the potter's wheel, nor soap, and water. Meat, fish and vegetables were together soaked in the same vessel, without salt, which was unknown to them, or other seasoning, except hunger, for the Indians were abstemious and seldom



ate more than two meals a day, and then only when hungry. Some squaws were more skilful than others, knowing how to prepare Indian corn in many ways. This was the "old reliable" among every and all of them. An ordinary breakfast consisted of maize that had been crushed into one soft mass, and then boiled. Having no cows nor goats, they had no milk to dilute the mass with, and for lack of sugar which, like salt, was unknown to them, the maize was eaten in great quantities without any seasoning of any kind. The mid-day dinner and supper did not vary much. Occasionally, except during the Winter, meat was indulged in, but to no great extent, as maize was preferred. There was fish a-plenty, the year 'round. But they soon tired of this for maize, which was believed to possess everything requisite for a perfect diet. It was easily and quickly digested and produced strength, which gave them agility and courage to a greater extent, they believed, than anything else could. Agility and courage were the making of a perfect Indian. Later on, and after the coming of the white man, butter, salt, milk and other edibles were introduced, together with a diversity of ways in preparing and cooking food. The plain maize alluded to here was called *ach-poan* or *as-poan*; whence the Dutch *sup-paen* or *sup-pawn*, Swedish *suppan* and the Virginia *corn pone*, sometimes "pone bread." Another favorite dish was maize beaten fine and boiled, eaten hot or cold with milk or butter, which was called *nassump* whence "samp." Boiled whole corn was known as *musquatash*, a word resembling "succotash." Sometimes the corn was roasted in ashes, sometimes beaten and boiled in water, which was called *homine*. During William Penn's time he records the fact of their having "several sorts of beans and peas, and made a corn cake not unpleasant to sight or taste." Their thirst was quenched by the broth of boiled meats or pure spring water. In Summer the women indulged in a concoction of unfermented juices of wild cherry, elder-berry and blackberry, flavored with the bark of sassafras and birch trees. Intoxicating liquors were unknown. Tobacco was their only stimulant. This they raised in considerable quantities. Their largest tobacco fields of later years were where the City Hall is located, and another the tract between Hamilton Avenue, Third Street, Monroe and Harrison Streets. They had no "dry sheds," but employed the sun to do the drying of the stalks, which were suspended from rails supported by posts. The tobacco was smoked in pipes, not only by the young and old men, but also by many women past middle age, who received as much satisfaction and comfort from the solacing weed, as did the males. While they knew how to make cigars, this form of smoke was never favored, the preference being for the home-made old pipe.

Drunkenness was unknown to the Indians; even that word could not be found in their vocabulary, nor any other word of similar import. Even after the white man came with his intoxicants, all drunken men were called "silly fools." Rheumatic-gout, pimpled or red noses, never





caught them; they never had any of the diseases or infirmities following the excessive use of spirits. Unfortunately, however, they became not only fond of, but slaves to it soon after it was introduced by the white man, and its immoderate use wrought great havoc to and among the Indians. The Indians excelled in feats of dexterity and agility, which made them capable messengers. They were rapid walkers and swift runners. In 1661 a trusty Indian carried a message from the Dutch settlement on the Delaware to New Amsterdam, covering nearly 200 miles, and swimming five rivers, including the Hudson, then double its present width, in 100 hours, and received "a piece of cloth and a pair of socks."

They dressed in the skins of wild animals, the art of curing which they understood and engaged in. Their implements were of stone. As a rule their arrows were tipped with flint points or heads. This flint, being a tough, very hard stone, was found here in great quantities, and although some were fashioned with great skill and finished to perfection, they were more useful than beautiful. Other arrow heads more highly prized were those of jasper, a precious stone not indigenous to this region, but came from other parts, having been brought here by visiting heads of tribes. In the year 1861 Tunis De Block, who was a tenant of the Ackerman farm—all land east of Second Street—found several jasper points or arrow heads in his field and about on the triangle now bounded by Passaic Street, Wall Street and the Dundee Railroad. Slate, shale and quartz also made good arrow heads. Scrapers, axes, knives, chisels, celts, fish spears, club heads, net sinkers, pestles, pipes, drills, plummetts, mortars, spear-heads, and other articles were made from flint, quartz, jasper, granite, slate and other minerals, and have been found in great quantity hereabouts.

The editor of this work has had the good fortune to pick up specimens near First Ward Park, Weasel Brook, near Harrison Street, Lake Avenue, Passaic, and along that brook in Clifton. Mr. Max Schrabasch, formerly of Paterson, had, until ten years ago, over 1,000 specimens, which he had himself found, and which he offered to sell to the Passaic Public Library for \$200, but was refused, to the everlasting loss of our City and disappointment of the writer, who did his utmost to get the city to buy. That opportunity thus lost has gone forever!

Among the men were many capable mechanics, who considering their crude tools were equal to the white man. Trees were felled by hacking the trunks at their base, or by burning. Trimming was accomplished by the use of stone axes, so blunt as to cause surprise at the work accomplished by them. Canoes were made by hollowing out the trunk of a tree by fire, or they would cover with bark a frame made of tree branches, and thus make a boat, strong enough to carry a ton, and yet so light as to be carried by two men. They made a coarse cloth of nettles, and the fibre of other plants, which they twisted upon the thigh,





with the palm of their hands and wove with their fingers. They made ropes, purses and bags of this same thread. For needles, they used small bones, or hardwood splints. They were fond of ornaments, either for use or adornment of the person and were given to bartering them on a large scale.

The family relations of the Lenapis were very friendly and happy, more so than of other tribes. They married very young—the girls at thirteen or fourteen, and the boys at sixteen or seventeen. Exogamy was a rigid rule among North American Indians, as is the case among all peoples in a state of barbarism. No dusky brave was allowed to marry a dusky damsel of his own sub-tribe. It was for this reason that tribes were maintained; so that no person under any circumstances would have an excuse for marrying a relative, which was forbidden by custom.

The maiden inclining to marriage would wear a particular kind of head-dress, as she sat by the most frequented public road or path, usually covering not only her face, but often her body, so that she could not be recognized until the favored suitor appeared, when the head-dress would be slightly tilted, a sign that the brave might be acceptable, whereupon negotiations were carried on by nearest relatives of the maiden, to whom a present would be sent, usually some ornament for adornment, supplemented sometimes by "the long-green," or *wampum*. If the relatives of the girl were unfavorable, the gift would be returned, but if agreeable, they would escort the maid to the young man's hut, to which her many friends would march in solemn procession, with presents of corn, beans, dishes, kettles, hatchets, baskets, mats, pieces of hand made cloth, etc. Refreshments would be served, followed by dancing, which ended the wedding. There was no ceremony by priest or other person. Such hasty marriages did not last, being made simply to gratify the animal passions of the parties, and when this abated, separation came. Children, in such cases, followed the mother. Not all unions were of this kind. The majority, conceived and founded in love, endured until death. Although the number of wives of any man, at any one period, was not restricted, very few took under their wing more than one female. Women bore children easily. "A new-born would be wrapt in a clout," according to William Penn, "and immediately laid on a thin board a little more than the length and breadth of the child, swaddling it fast upon the board to make it straight; wherefore, all Indians have flat heads, very erect. Strapt thus the mothers carry them on their backs, but while working the child was "stood up" or "hung up." Between sixth and seventh birthdays a name was given by the father, with much ceremony. Upon reaching the age of twenty-one years another name was given, from some incident of his prowess or other circumstance. There was an aversion to uttering aloud a person's name; preference being given to any nickname applied to any



Indian. The name of a dead Indian was never mentioned aloud or before others, but whispered softly into the ear of the person addressed. Speaking it aloud was considered lack of respect for the deceased person. Every boy was trained up in the craft of the field, water and woods. While very young he practiced with bow and arrow, was taught how to fish with line, and to manipulate the fish and eel weirs; as he grew older he was taught how to make canoes, and the use of tools and the tomahawk. At the age of eighteen years, boys underwent a trying initiation; beginning with a fast of several days accompanied by many feats of endurance and dexterity, well calculated to test his mental and physical stamina. It was this rigid training that made for strong, supple men. Girls were left simply to "grow up." They remained with mother until marriage, or death, helping in the home, and on the farm, in the most menial labors, from which marriage did not relieve them. Wives were servants to their husband but were shown loving attention and care.

The tribes living here were passionately fond of sports which they engaged in on a large scale, such as horse racing, races between men— younger and older, aquatic racing and other water contests, endurance walks over large areas of country. All of these were laid upon wagers or bets, arising from the fact that the men were born gamblers, putting chances not only on sports, but also in many cases upon the common every day's activities.

The greatest of all centres for sports in the whole of what is now New Jersey was at the present Delawanna, in the grove near the Electric Railway's car house, and the fields between that grove and Passaic River, along the northeasterly side of which rippled the Yantacaw River, then a much larger stream. These fields, until recently, were used as a golf course. The excellent groves, upland, rivers and meadow made the locality an ideal one; to which came representatives from the neighboring Haverstraw, Tappan, Hackensack, Pompton, Raritan and other tribes, to engage in contests of the most strenuous kind among men younger and older only—women were not allowed to participate. This fete was held annually at a time corresponding with the present Thanksgiving time. Crops had been harvested, corn dried and roasted, nuts gathered, and firewood stacked in big piles at the headquarters and huts of each tribe, preparatory to the coming of winter. Then, too, this being at the close of the hunting season, large quantities of meat and fish had been smoked, cured and stored. As proof of their labors the hunters took pleasure in exhibiting some beautiful skins, of which they might well be proud. They were a happy crowd of fine looking Indians, male and female, all dressed in their best. The men were well developed, strong of limb, straight and tall. This celebration, like every important event in the life of an Indian, was made impressive by dance and song. Cantico (sometimes written Kanticay or Kanti-





kaw) was the first number on the programme, which consisted of round dances, to the accompaniment of, sometimes, spoken words, or songs or shouts. Two men standing in the centre of a circle, begin singing and drumming on a board, thereby enticing dancers, until a score are soon in motion, performing all sorts of antics, including round dancing, hopping, twirling, with arms raised, and spiral dancing, interspersed with jumping, leap frog and rolling upon the ground. This would continue for an hour, when games would be played, beginning with the simpler kind, one of which was to arrange the players, armed with spears, or bow and arrow, in parallel line, forty feet apart, through the centre of which a hoop would be sent rolling very rapidly. The trick was to throw the spear or shoot the arrow in such a way as to stop the hoop. Next in order was shooting with bow and arrow, and throwing the spear, followed by wrestling and boxing. These took up the first day, in the mid-afternoon of which there would be a sumptuous dinner prepared by the women folk, who catered to the wants and comforts of the men. In the evening the men got together in groups to talk over all important matters, while the ladies busied themselves in household affairs, while the whole scene was lighted by many camp fires. On the second day there were canoe races on the Passaic River, upon which, and the Yanticaw River, aquatic stunts would be shown to an admiring throng crowding together and hailing the victors with shouts of exultation. On the second evening there would be a "Talk" by, to and among the entire assembly closing with singing *en bloc*.

The third day was most exciting of them all, particularly for the men, as it was horse racing day, when the speed of the horse, not only, but the skill and dexterity of riders were considered and judged. The "track" was the same used so long for golf, around and about which the bareback rider sped his racer in a go-as-you-please gait. Of course, a "purse" added to the sport. The festivities were closed by a final *canticaw*, and smoke, in which all participated.

It might be proper to note here that Yanticaw is a corruption of Canticaw. The first letter in the word having unintentionally been changed from *C* to *Y*. The word means *dancing*.

The Indians of this tribe were firm believers in a future life, and in rewards for the good, and had confused ideas about a future existence, believing that the *chickung*, i. e., the shadow, or what survives the body will, at death, go southward, and in an unknown but curious place enjoy happiness, such as dancing, hunting, feasting or the like, of which they would never tire. Their dread of death led them to speak of it in terms like: "You are about to see your grandfather," or "should anything happen." In case of death, the wigwam would be moved to another spot. Mourning was left to the women relatives, who visited the grave daily, at morn and eve, for several months. A widow kept this up for a year for her husband. Lamentations for the deceased were loud and





long, by relatives. The body was attired in the best clothes of the deceased, and the face painted red. The remains were placed in the grave in a sitting posture, facing the east. In the grave were placed food and drink and in that of a warrior, his best bow and arrow for use, mayhap, on his long, long journey. The grave was not filled with earth for a year—Simply covered by branches of trees, in order to facilitate the replenishing of fresh food and water. At the head of the grave a tall post was erected, with the name of the deceased painted thereon. If it was a chief, the post was elaborately carved with rude figures, descriptive of the dead; and if a war chief, or great warrior, his valiant deeds were set forth with great care. If it were a medicine man, his tortoise shell rattle or calabash was hung upon the post. The grave was protected by a fence, and cared for by friends or relatives for years.

Although every tribe had one or more physicians, or "Medicine men," their services were seldom required, owing to the fact that diseases were rare, almost unknown, because of living entirely in the outdoors; and in the event of accidents, every family knowing the properties and virtues of certain plants and herbs, applied them without consultation with a doctor. Should sickness prevail among them the medicine men, astrologers and priests would get together and set about playing their juggling tricks and placing themselves frantically in the most grotesque postures of the body, with faces drawn to the most horrible expressions, in order, as they said, to ascertain why they were so sickly. In this exercise they would be engaged for hours, making all the wild, ridiculous and distracted motions imaginable, sometimes singing, sometimes howling, while extending their hands to the utmost, and spreading their fingers with a pushing motion, as if to push from them the evil spirit that was the cause of all their troubles.

The Indians made no improvements during their centuries of occupation. They cleared no land of trees, although they would clear a field of brush in order to cultivate. They built no bridge; the nearest they got to this was to fell trees across Weasel brook, at where is now the outlet into the river of the lower tail race canal, across which a path led along the river through the property of Speer's chateau, part of which, passing that property, was known as Love Lane, by the side of which the Indian maid would await the coming of her lover, as above stated. They built no road, nor even a path. Even their houses, if such their place of residence might be called, and their quasi public buildings, were not stable in character—never were. The question might be asked, "Why?" It was not because they intended leaving here, or being ousted by enemies, nor that they did not know of these things. It was mainly owing to laziness of the men, who abhorred concentration, either mental or physical, which would be required to accomplish any work of an enduring nature—give them the wild, nomadic life of the huntsman or fisherman, and besides, why should they labor



to produce that which others would enjoy, without helping to produce, after the makers had gone to the spirit land? This was the stumbling block of all permanent works. So that, except for the remnants of their implements, tools, ornaments and the like, the Indians have left us very little in remembrance, except the Rock Shelters, which are found scattered over the northern part of the State profusely, but very few in this vicinity. They consisted of over-hanging rocks, and shallow dug-outs, found only in regions where precipitous rock ledges were common. The nearest ones to Passaic were in the Great Notch. Until recent years, these shelters were unknown, but since their discovery, much interest is taken in locating new ones. They may be found on the southerly side of a hill, near running water.

The making of wampum was a business of itself, carried on only by skilled men and women, many of whom became expert. The industry here was carried on and centralized on the bank of the Passaic River, at a point 100 feet easterly of the Second Street bridge. Here were two huts or cabins wherein the work was carried on continuously as a business. In the smaller of the two huts which, at the present day would be designated the office, all plans and designs were worked out, models prepared, and new shapes and sizes designed, and where all finished work was inspected, assorted and placed on shelves fastened to the walls. Here also were kept the tallies of the amount of work done under the supervision of a man called Noochena-father-to whom was entrusted the care and protection of all wampum there made. He gave all orders for supplies, quantity and distribution of the product.

The larger hut was the mill proper, in which the picking, chiseling, grinding and polishing, drilling holes in the moons, beads and other forms, were done—all in the most careful and particular way, in order to pass the scrutiny of the inspector, who assembled the wampum of the two kinds into three classes—the good, better and best. From him the whole was taken to the other building to be again carefully examined for shades of coloring before being pronounced perfect and complete.

The shells were brought from the sea shore by canoes, and dumped upon the floor of the mill. Permission was given the women to extract from the shell whatever flesh there might be clinging thereto, but to leave the shell. Usually a crowd of mothers awaited upon the river bank, the returning canoes with the shells.

With the disappearance of the Indian the making of wampum ceased in this locality. In other parts of the state, however, the business was continued until the middle of the past century, and was traded off and sold to Indians of the Far West, to the Six Nations of New York, and a few remaining Indians in the eastern and middle states. The price was about \$5 for 1,000 black beads, and half as much for the white. Moons and other designs were, subsequent to the days of the Indians, made by white men from the conch shell.





## CHAPTER II.

### THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

In the year 1497, while the Indians were lords of this region, Henry the VII of England commissioned John and Sebastian Cabot, Venetians in his service, "to discover the isles and provinces of the heathen and infidels, unknown to all the nations of Christendom, in whatever part of the globe they may be placed." Thus, it will be observed, that this was after the discovery of America by Columbus in 1492.

The Cabots discovered the Island of Newfoundland June 24, 1497, and sailed down the coast to Mexico. They made several landings at various places, taking possession by declaring the same, so that all might hear, in the name of his King. For 87 years thereafter nothing was done either to convert the heathen to civilization or to send people to occupy their provinces. King Henry the VIIth was dead, and the ruling monarch was Elizabeth—good Queen Bess—who in 1584 gave to Sir Walter Raleigh by patent authority "to discover, occupy and govern remote heathen and barbarous countries not previously possessed by any Christian people or prince."

Raleigh sent out two ships which landed at Roanoke. He took the sole possession of a large territory, and called the whole of it *Virginia*. He attempted settlements in 1585 and 1590, both of which failed. Virginia was a vast territory, extending from North Carolina to Maine, and included New Jersey.

The territory was divided into North Virginia and South Virginia. The patent for North Virginia was in 1606 granted by King James to Thomas Hanham, and associates, who were called the *Plymouth Brethren*. In this grant the previous patent to Sir Walter Raleigh was entirely ignored.

In 1609 Hendrick Hudson, who was a plain English mariner in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, in attempting to find the northwest passage, entered Delaware Bay in the "Half Moon," on August 28th. From there he sailed up the coast and anchored within Sandy Hook, on September 3, 1609. He made nearby explorations, sailing up the Hudson to assure himself that it was not merely an arm of the sea, and on September 6, 1609, he discovered "a narrow river" to the west of the Narrows. This was no doubt the stream made by the confluence of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers. Hudson returned to Europe October 4, 1609.

As soon as the Dutch heard of the discovery they began to take advantage of it. In 1610, they sent hither through the Dutch East India Company more than one vessel to trade with the Indians for furs. They





also built a fort on Manhattan Island and called it New Amsterdam. The whole colony they named New Netherlands, which included New Jersey. The first settlement was made by the Dutch in 1618, at the present Jersey City, which they called Bergen. The English became jealous of the Dutch, who were beginning to thrive most wonderfully, and England never abandoned her claim to sovereignty, by reason of prior discovery, so we find, that in 1664 Charles the Second sent a small fleet to the New Netherlands, which was surrendered to the English by the Dutch in the latter part of that year.

About this time, and even before, King Charles made an extensive grant to his brother, the Duke of York (after whom New York was named). This was done by Royal charter, March 12, 1664.

On June 23d, in the same year, the Duke of York conveyed a portion of the New Netherlands, being New Jersey, to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. The consideration of this conveyance was ten shillings and a rent of one pepper corn to be paid on the day of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, if legally demanded. The boundaries of the land so granted and which are the first of the kind pertaining to New Jersey, are: "Bounded on the east part by the main sea and part by Hudson's river, and hath by the west Delaware Bay or River and extendeth southward to the main ocean as far as Cape May at the mouth of Delaware Bay and northward as far as the northernmost branch of said Bay or River of Delaware, which is in forty-one degrees and forty minutes of latitude and worketh over thence in a straight line to Hudson's river, which said tract of land is to be called by the name or names of Nova Cesarea or 'New Jersey'."

Berkeley and Carteret formed a constitution for the colony, securing equal privileges and liberty of conscience to all, and appointed Philip Carteret governor, who came over in 1665, fixed the seat of government at Elizabethtown, and purchased lands of the Indians. The constitution of Berkeley and Carteret continued entirely until the province was divided in 1676, July 1st.

Governor Carteret had been in office but a few years when colonial domestic troubles began to disturb him. Some of the inhabitants, who had previously purchased lands from the Indians, refused to pay rent to the new proprietors. In 1672, an insurrection arose, compelling Carteret to flee the colony and go to England for redress. His officers were imprisoned and their estates confiscated. James Carteret, a son of the Governor, was chosen by the people to assume the government.

In 1673, New York and New Jersey were surrendered to the Dutch, but for only a short time, about a year, when it was restored to the English. By reason of this surrender, some doubts having arisen as to the Duke of York's title, a new charter was given him.

In 1674 Edmund Adros, who came over as Governor of New York, claimed jurisdiction over New Jersey also. In 1675 Philip Carteret



returned to New Jersey and resumed the government until 1682, in the eastern part of the province.

New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey July 1, 1676. Sir George Carteret became the owner of East Jersey and Lord Berkeley of West Jersey. Sir George Carteret died in 1679. By his will he directed that East Jersey be sold to pay his debts. His trustees tried to sell it at private sale, without success. They then offered it at auction, when William Penn and eleven others, most, if not all, Quakers, bought it for 3,400 pounds. But it was too big a load for them to carry. Each sold half his right to one other man, and so were constituted the Twenty-four Proprietors. They procured a deed of confirmation from the Duke of York March 14, 1682, and then they established a council, giving it power to grant warrants of survey for, and to execute patents or deeds for lands and to do everything to dispose of the entire territory.

New Jersey was fortunate in having as founders a body of men of such sterling worth as these men possessed. They gave character to every act performed and confidence to every promise made. They were: William Penn, known to all the world; James Earl, of Perth; John Drummond; Robert Barclay, famous, like Penn, as a Quaker, gentleman and controversialist for Quaker belief; David Barclay; Robert Gordon; Arent Sonmans; Robert West; Thomas Rudyard, a lawyer who had won fame in London as defender of Penn; Samuel Groom; Thomas Hart, who later acquired thousands of acres of land in Passaic County; Richard Mew; Ambrose Rigg; John Heywood; Hugh Hartshorn; Clement Plumsted; Thomas Cooper; Gawen Lawrie; Edward Byllinge; James Brain; William Gibson; Thomas Barker; Robert Turner and Thomas Warne.

The Lords Proprietors, once Lords by title, and in fact, of New Jersey and of her domain: no representative creation "of the people, by the people and for the people", but acquiring title to soil, and government, too, by conveyance from the British crown; from whom the title to every foot of land in New Jersey springs; and among whom even after government was surrendered, her chief and most influential citizens were to be found. Little by little the domain, the possession of which gave the Proprietors consequence, has passed from their hands.

The existence of a separate Board, or Council of Proprietors, from whom all titles are derived, instead of obtaining them from the governing power, as is the case in other States of the Union, is a fact, which, while well understood among native Jerseymen, almost always seems strange to those who are not. And therefore it may be well, familiar as is the topic, to state how it came about that New Jersey had, from the beginning, as the foundation of all titles, a private body of landowners.

The doctrine of the English law was that discovery and conquest gave title as to all heathen and uncivilized countries to the British Crown. When Charles II took possession of the country by his right





of discovery, he took possession of it in his sovereign capacity. He had the same right in it and the same power over it as he had in and over his other dominions, and no more. This right consisted in granting the soil to private persons for the purposes of settlement and colonization; of establishing a government; of supporting a Governor, and of conveying to him all those things appurtenant to the sovereignty, commonly called royalties, for the benefit of the colonies.

Both discovery and conquest, it is claimed, gave the British Crown the title to New Jersey. The English first discovered and took possession of this part of North America. Being at war with the States of Holland, they were driven out by their enemy, who took possession and built the City of New Amsterdam, now New York. They extended their settlements into New Jersey, particularly into the counties adjacent to New York, the first European inhabitants of which were generally Hollanders.

But in 1664, the English reconquered the territory and expelled the Dutch. The King thus gained a new title by conquest of a civilized nation. On March 12, 1664, Charles II, by royal patent, granted New Jersey to his brother James, Duke of York, afterwards King, succeeding Charles. He took immediate possession. Thus the landed property of New Jersey is held direct from the King of England.

This grant to the Duke gave him not only property in the soil, but also the right and power of government. No other title to the soil than his was ever recognized by the law. It was unappropriated land, a great waste, a savage wilderness.

To such property the law appoints the King as owner, because there is no other. Moreover, it is a fundamental principle of the common law, that all lands, even those of private persons, are held by the King. Where there is no private owner, therefore, all persons must claim through him. It was a newly discovered wilderness, conquered by the King of England; it was the King's from necessity, belonging to him solely, substantially and beneficially.

All patents previous to 1681 were granted by the Governor, who up to that time had been appointed by the King, but now was selected by the new Proprietors, Carteret and Berkeley.

The rules of the Proprietors, forming an agreement between themselves, established two modes of conveying title in severalty to their lands, one was by letters patent a plan pursued in the earliest period but abandoned many years ago; the others by what is called warrant and survey, the method followed for the last two centuries. No patent was issued for any particular tract of land until a deed for the same had been obtained from the Indians in possession for a consideration satisfactory to them.

Robert Barclay, a Scotchman, was the first Governor of East Jersey,





under the new administration of the Twenty-four Proprietors, who appointed him in 1682.

But these proprietors soon found themselves unable to govern. Each province had many and different proprietors, who promoted separate schemes and interests; or in other words, they were politicians of the modern order and were soon fighting among themselves. Discord prevailed, and all attempts to reconcile jealousies, discords and battles were unsuccessful, as also were the attempts to effect a union between the contending factions.

The proprietors, weary of contending with each other and with the people, finally surrendered their right of government to the Crown, which was accepted by Queen Anne April 17, 1702. Immediately upon the surrender, East and West Jersey were united into one province, under Lord Cornbury. The commission and instructions received by him from the Queen formed the constitution and government of the province until the Declaration of Independence.

The new government was composed of the Governor and twelve Councillors appointed by the Crown, and an Assembly of twenty-four members to be elected by the people.

Lord Cornbury continued to act as Governor from his arrival here in August, 1703, until 1708, when his commission was revoked.

Lord Lovelace was appointed to succeed Cornbury December 20, 1708, but he died in May, 1709, and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Governor Ingoldsby, who was succeeded in 1710 by Governor Hunter. Following him came William Burnett, 1720, under whom began the paper currency in New Jersey. John Montgomerie was Governor from 1727 to 1731; William Cosby, 1731 to 1736. At his death the government devolved upon the President of the Council, John Anderson, who lived only two weeks to enjoy the honor. John Hamilton then governed nearly two years until 1738 when a commission arrived to Lewis Morris, who died in 1746. He was succeeded by President Hamilton. Upon his death, the next oldest councillor, John Reading, exercised the office until 1747, when Jonathan Belcher arrived with his commission. He died in 1757 and was succeeded by John Reading, President. Francis Bernard was the next commissioned Governor, in 1758. Thomas Boone succeeded him in 1760, only to give place to Josiah Hardy in 1761. Governor Hardy was succeeded in the spring of 1763 by William Franklin, who was the last of the royal Governors. He was the son of Dr. Benjamin Franklin. The last meeting of the provincial legislature convened November 16, 1775, and was prorogued by Governor Franklin to January 3, 1776, but it never re-assembled.

The provincial congress of New Jersey convened at Burlington, June 10, 1776. At the same time the general congress of the United Colonies was in session at Philadelphia and on July 4, 1776, declared themselves independent of Great Britain. On July 18, 1776, the provin-



cial congress assumed the title of the *State* Convention of New Jersey.

The first legislature of Independent New Jersey was convened at Princeton on August 27, 1776, and on the 31st of the same month William Livingston was in joint ballot chosen Governor of the State. He died in 1790. The first constitution of the State, adopted in 1776, remained in force until 1845, when a new one was adopted, which has been amended several times. Space forbids the setting forth of the history of the State, which may be found in the various histories dealing with that subject, and confining this work to a particular locality.

In the beginning of things here, viz.: when the first Indian deed for Dundee Island, and the tract of land called Acquackanonk, and the Point Patent were made, Philip Carteret was the Crown Governor, who granted that patent, and when the Acquackanonk Patent was granted in 1684 East Jersey was owned by the Twenty-four Proprietors, who had appointed Robert Barkley Governor in 1682.

The Oaths of Fidelity to his Majesty and the Lord Proprietor of the Province of New Jersey:

That I will bear true allegiance to the King of England, his heirs, and successors, and I will be faithful to the interest of the Lord Proprietor of this Province, his heirs, executors, or assigns, and endeavour the peace and welfare of the said Province, and that I will truly and faithfully discharge the trust imposed upon me, according to my best skill and judgement, and without corruption, favour or affection. So help me God.

#### The Oaths of Allegiance:

I do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare in my conscience, before God and the world, that our Sovereign Lord King Charles, is lawful and rightful King of this realm, and of all other his Majesty's dominions and country's, and that the Pope, neither of himself, nor by any authority of the Church, or See of Rome, or by any other means with any other, hath any power or authority to depose the King, or to dispose any of his Majesty's kingdoms or dominions, or to authorize any foreign prince to invade or annoy him or his country's, or to discharge any of his subjects of their allegiance and obedience to his Majesty, or to give license or leave to any of them, to bear arms, raise tumults, or to offer any violence or hurt to his Majesty's royal person, state, government, or to any of his Majesty's subjects within his Majesty's dominions. Also I do swear from my heart, that notwithstanding any declaration or sentence of excommunication, or deprivation made or granted, or to be made or granted by the Pope or his successor, or by any authority derived or pretend to be derived from him or his See against the said King, his heirs and successors, or any absolution of the said subjects from their obedience, I will bear faith and true allegiance, to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and him and them will defend to the utmost of my power, against all conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his or their persons, their crown and dignity, by reason or colour of any such sentence or declaration, or otherways, and will do my best endeavours to declare and make known unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies, which I shall know or hear of, to be made against him or any of them. And I do further swear, that I do from my heart abhor, detest and abjure, as impious and heretical, this damnable doctrine and positions that princes





which be excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, may be deposed or murdered of their subjects, or any other whatsoever, and I do believe and in conscience am resolved, that neither the Pope nor any other person whatsoever hath power to absolve me of this oath or any part thereof, which I acknowledge by good and full authority to be lawfully administered unto me, and do renounce all pardons and dispensations to the contrary, and these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear according to the plain and common sense and understanding of the same words, without any equivocation, or a mentall evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever, and I do make this recognition and acknowledgement heartily, willingly and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian. So help me God.



### CHAPTER III.

#### DUNDEE ISLAND—ITS HISTORY AND LEGEND.

In the passing of Dundee Island, which by the filling in of the westerly branch of the Passaic River, is become part of the main land, there passes from view a distinct tract of land, whose history forms an interesting link in the chain of events pertaining to our city, and which stood out as the first thing to attract the white man of all things in the present County of Passaic.

By the Indians it was called Menehenicke, signifying union, as applied to the purposes of various kinds for which it was used by the several tribes.

The Passaic Indians belonged to the Algonquin nation of a quarter of a million people. The country between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers was called "Scheyichbi" and the tribe here and in Bergen County was the Leni-Lenappi, or Delaware tribe, numbering about two thousand souls, presided over by a Governor appointed by the King who held office during good behavior. This tribe was divided into smaller tribes or clans such as the Pompton, occupying Pompton and adjacent territory, and the Hackensack clan. The latter had headquarters here and at Hackensack.

The island was used for religious purposes as well as for picnics and dancing. The Indians always showed great respect and veneration for an island because it reminded them of a turtle—which lived in, or if on the surface, was surrounded by water. They regarded the turtle as creator of all things. According to their traditions, the turtle supports the earth (which was considered an island) on its back. Living upon the island alone as caretaker at the time of its sale to Mr. Hartman Michaelson was an old Indian by the name of Tantaque, who described the origin of the world in this way: He drew a circle, a little oval, to which he made four paws, head and tail, explaining that this was a turtle lying in the water, and so, at first, was the earth until the turtle raised its back, the water ran off, leaving the dry ground. Then taking a little straw, and placing it on and in the middle of the figure he explained further that the earth produced this tree in the middle of it, whose root sent forth a sprout upon which grew a man, upon another sprout a woman grew.

Another old Indian known as CaptehanCaptain and Sakemaker among the Indians, who was present, added the information that the Great Spirit Kickeron, was the creator of the turtle.

The Indians were religious and every year, in the month of October, called by them Pooxit, held religious services on the island, or Tooshwarkama, meaning across the river. They acknowledged two gods or



spirits called Manetto. One the ruler of celestial, the other of terrestrial affairs. The former they neither worshipped nor feared, because he was good, but the latter, because he was evil, they perversely esteemed to be both feared and worshipped.

David Brainerd, the missionary, says: "There was no appearance of reverence and devotion in the worship of these invisible powers, and what they do seems only to appease the supposed anger of their deities, to engage them to be placable to themselves, and do them no hurt, or at most only to invite these powers to prosper them in their enterprises, which they were engaged in, respecting this life. So that, in offering these sacrifices, they seem to have had no reference to a future state, but only to present comfort."

They held fire and light in great veneration, particularly the place of sun-rise, viz.: the east, towards which they taught their children to turn their faces and stretch forth their hands when praying, being taught that God had his dwelling place there.

The annual religious services were always accompanied by sacrifices, in which tobacco was burned, "whereupon", according to the Rev. Bishop Ettwein, a Swedish missionary who visited this island in 1650, "as the whole smoke ascends on high the sacrificer, crying with a loud voice, "Kannaka, Hannaka, or sometimes, Koo, Hoo, turns his face towards the east."

The sacrifice was offered in a house called the house of sacrifice, which is described by the Rev. Henry Loskiel, a Moravian missionary who visited here about 1676, as follows: "A large oven is built in the midst of the house of sacrifice, consisting of twelve poles, each of a different species of wood. These they run into the ground, tie them together at the top and cover them entirely with blankets joined close together. The oven is heated with twelve large stones, heated red hot. Then twelve men creep into it, and remain there as long as they can bear the heat. In the meanwhile an old man throws twelve pipes full of tobacco upon the hot stones, which occasions a smoke almost powerful enough to suffocate the persons in the oven." The number twelve refers to the months into which the year is divided. In great danger, an Indian lies prostrate on his face, and throwing a handful of tobacco into the fire, to call aloud, as in an agony of distress: "There, take and smoke, be pacified, and don't hurt me."

In addition to the annual religious services for the entire tribe, special family sacrifices were held here once in two years. These were expensive and could not be afforded by every family. A family feast was held every two years to which all relatives were invited, being conveyed to the island in decorated boats, preceded by an orchestra. After dinner the men and women engaged in a solemn dance, while a singer walked up and down, rattling a small tortoise shell filled with pebbles and chanting an appropriate recital. At another feast twelve old men





or women wrapped themselves in tanned deer skins, and with faces turned towards the east uttered prayers. They also had dances in honor of hunting, fishing, first fruits, etc., when sacrifices were offered by a priest, during which those in attendance would make ridiculous speeches, while others would imitate a cock, squirrel and other animals, and make all kinds of noises.

During the shouting two roasted deer were distributed with maize (corn) bread, cooked by magicians called Kanki. For a drink they boiled roots and herbs in water. While the cooking was going on, and some dancing in a circle, an Indian woman would advance, her hair falling down her back, and with a shell, stir up the mass, and throw portions into the fire, which act was greeted with shouts by the dancers.

The festival was called "Kanticoy."

Every important event in the life, or death of an Indian, was celebrated by dance and song. The Cantico was a round dance.

Another use to which this island was put resembled that of a hospital clinic where patients would resort to be examined and treated for diseases.

The Indian doctor was called "Meteu." He would prepare his roots and herbs with great ceremony, all the while chanting prayers and incantations. The quantity and quality of the medicines as well as the incantations and their efficacy, depended upon the size of the present given the doctor, who would breathe on his patient, apply the decoction externally as well as internally, and then "howl and roar and hollow over them and begin the song to the rest of the people about them, who all joyne, like a quire, in prayer to their gods for them." Sometimes the doctor would array himself in bearskin with a rattle in his hand, a gourd full of stones or beans, which he would shake violently as he came to the patient, making hideous noises and playing all sorts of juggling tricks.

Indian surgery was very crude. To reduce a dislocated knee or foot an Indian would creep to the nearest tree, tie the knee or foot thereto and lying on his back would pull until the dislocation was reduced.

The river, then in all its purity, was much wider on both sides, particularly on the westerly side where the shore line was about midway between Third and Fourth Streets. This shore, from Bergen to Monroe Streets, was a dense forest, adjoining which on the south was an Indian burying ground, scattered about among whose graves were all sorts of fantastic emblems, totem poles, and many colored flags, in memory of the dead. On the south shore was the Indian village with its many cabins, huts and tents, whose inhabitants had numbered, perhaps 500, and whose industry and hard work had reclaimed from the forests and made tillable most of the land now known as Dundee, in addition to the land now bounded by Prospect Street, Park Place and Monroe Street, subsequently known as the Point Patent.



For many years the writer believed with many others that a Dutchman of Communipaw, by the name of Jacob Stoffelson, was the first (so far as known) white man to visit this region: subsequent developments in the study of the life of the Michielse (Vreeland) family have led to a revision of that opinion, and to the belief which is now set down as a fact that Hartman Michielse, or Vreeland, was the first white man to set foot upon, purchase land, and settle in what is now the City of Passaic, although not its discoverer; the credit for that is to be given to Mr. Jacques Cortelyou who had previously passed the same on a voyage up the river some months before, as set forth hereinafter.

A careful study of facts, dates, etc., set forth below and above, and the inferences deduced therefrom, will prove this. The difference in time of their respective first visits was not great—barely three months, and yet it was sufficient for Hartman to erect a trading-post and engage his Indian hunters and trappers who were already bringing in their skins and furs to this trading-post when Stoffelson came. Inasmuch as the Michielses became the founders of the greater part of Passaic and Clifton it is fitting, proper and right that they should, forever hereafter be considered the real discoverers and founders of this community.

Until recently, the question as to why Michielsen purchased the island, remained unanswered. A careful study of the *Jansen*, *Michielsen* and *Vreeland* families, by the writer, made recently, furnishes the answer.

Hartman's father was known as Michiel Jansen (meaning Michael the son of John) who, as early as 1640, was engaged in the fur trade with Indians—many from this locality, who, with their skins and furs, made frequent trips by canoe to his place of business in New York. He became rich in a few years, and retired, but lived only long enough to make his will, often painting in fascinating colors the picture of a fur trader, to his son who was left fatherless at the age of twelve years. Hartman learned the carpenter trade, which he abandoned to go with Abraham Van Horne, of Wall Street, dealer in furs taken in trade, or barter, and purchase from Indians, who came at times, in considerable numbers with skins and furs to Van Horne's shop or store which was in the front basement of the store-house. In this way Hartman became acquainted with the Indians, from whom he learned about Acquackanonk, its good qualities, abundance of fish and game, and easy accessibility by water to and from important points. He was among the first to learn of the intention of the Indians to sell out and go West. Upon going home one Saturday, he spoke to his mother about the matter, and because she was a business person of no mean ability, having been, and even then was, engaged extensively in real estate transactions, he placed implicit faith in her opinion. She advised him to consult with Van Horne, who, having had many years of dealing with the Indians, was capable of furnishing all necessary information. He did so, and ac-





quired a good idea not only of the Indians, but of the island also. It is altogether likely that the father had visited here, perhaps more than once, about 1640, to arrange upon prices and terms with Indian hunters and trappers.

Believing that a personal inspection was necessary he induced young Jacques Cortelyou to accompany him, with *Hans*, a half breed Indian, in a row-sail boat. They left the present Battery March 25, 1678, which then was New Year's day, believing that going by land would take longer than by row boat, because they had been informed that the Indians made the trip in their canoes in a few hours. But it took our trio nearly two days to row from New York to the former Dundee island. Both men were charmed by what they saw, and determined to buy—Cortelyou, the Saddle river tract, and Hartman, the island. With this end in view, they had a lengthy talk with the Indian Capatamine, who complained of the coming of the white men, who had already settled at Newark. John Berry had bought nearly the whole of the land between the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, and who, he understood, was negotiating for the Saddle River tract, but as his tribe did not own that, he was not sure; but as to the island and contiguous land he could negotiate the sale as his tribe was the owner. He felt that the days of the Red man in this vicinity were numbered and the tribes must go West; many had already gone. Those now here were staying only until a sale could be made. He mentioned the price for the island and referred them to Chief Nackpunck, living at the present Garfield, who had charge of the Saddle River tract. Hartman agreed to purchase the island, paid a deposit of a bottle of rum, and settled upon April 4 as the time for the delivery of the deed. On their way home down the river they took pains to examine more closely the land on the point from the island to our Park Place, near which, espying an Indian wigwam, they stopped, left their boat, and approached the wigwam in front of which stood a very much surprised Indian whose name they learned was Mindowwashwen, with whom they had a long conversation and from him learned of the abundance of game in this neighborhood, and it was he who suggested to Hartman his idea of establishing a trading post here, particularly upon the island.

This idea of establishing a fur trading post upon the island, Hartman really had in mind from the very first sight of it. To him its isolation gave greater security than the mainland afforded; and, all the way home, he dreamed dreams of fabulous wealth which Cortelyou encouraged him to believe could be made. His plan was to arrange for all furs which the Indians could supply while they remained here, and after their departure, to hire white men to secure them. While he had little capital himself, he counted upon financial assistance from his mother, who was wealthy. Upon his return he called upon her, submitted his plan, and was promised assistance, upon condition that the island should be



called Hartman's island, to which he agreed. Hartman was her maiden surname.

The deed for the island was very simple and short, reading as follows:

I, underwritten Captehan Peter Bearsup, by this to Hartman Michielsen a great island in the river of Pisaick near by Aquickanucke by the Indians called Menehenicke, I Captehan Peeters, freeholder of the above written island, Beare this to Hartman Michielsen, up to him in full freehold in knowledge of the truth Have I this, with my owne hand underset in witness of this underwritten witnesses.

Communipau in New Jersey this fourth day of April, one thousand six hundred and seventy and eight, and was marked by Captehan Peeter, his mark, and the witnesses was marked. Nappeemeeck, his mark and Derricke Klaese Braecke, his mark, and Johannes Michielsen and Elyas Michielsen.

The above is a translation from Dutch in which the original was written. "Bearup" means transfer or convey.

By "great island" some have supposed that the surrounding land, then an island, was included.

This was the first real estate deal in the present County of Passaic.

Hartman Michielson, who obtained a patent January 6, 1685, was considered a wealthy man. His mother, Fitje Hartman, was a rich woman when she married Michael Jansen, a man of wealth also. At his death he left his vast wealth to her. Hartman married the daughter of Dirck Claas Braecke (all these were of Communipaw, now Jersey City), who also was wealthy. Upon his death, March 20, 1693, without a will, his four daughters inherited all his estate. They subsequently conveyed their interests to their respective husbands. Hartman's mother died October 17, 1697, after devising her large estate to her children. He had four sons, viz.: Dirck (or Richard), Claus, Michael and Enoch, besides as many daughters. He died about 1722 or 3. Although no record of his last will has been found, he evidently made one, otherwise his estate would have become vested in his oldest son (Claus) under the common law of England, then in force. This view is strengthened by a deed of release dated August 11, 1724, made by Dirck, Claus and Michael Vreeland to Enoch Vreeland, for all their (three-fourths) interest in this island.

From a legal standpoint deeds from Indians conveyed no title to the land, the real title was derived from the English sovereign, who claimed it by right of discovery and conquest. The only right the Indian possessed was that of occupancy, having no title to the fee.

In the U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Taney held, in the case of *Martin et al. vs. Waddell*, as reported in 16 Peters, 347: "The English possessions in America were not claimed by right of conquest, but by right of discovery. According to the principles of international law, then understood by the civilized powers of Europe, the Indian tribes of the new world were regarded as mere temporary occupants of the soil;





and the absolute rights of property and dominion were held to belong to the European nations by which any portion of the new country was first discovered."

In an earlier case, Chief Justice Marshall, of the same court, in the case reported in 6 Cranch, 142, of *Fletcher vs. Peck*, held: "That the nature of the Indian title, which is certainly to be respected by all courts, until it be legitimately extinguished, is not such as to be absolutely repugnant to seisin in fee, on the part of the State."

In our own State, in the case of the Mayor and Common Council of Newark vs. George Watson and al., the Hon. David A. Depue, Justice of our Supreme Court, held: "By the English common law the title to lands in this State, was vested in the English Crown; and it is a fundamental principle in English Colonial jurisprudence that all titles to lands in this colony passed to individuals from the Crown, through the Colonial or proprietary authorities."

The Indians never assumed to own land in severalty. No one person was the owner of a lot, tract or farm. The land occupied by a tribe was owned by that tribe in common, as was this island. Certain tracts were cultivated for years, perhaps, and became known by the name of the occupier, and was considered as his own land.

Hartman was young, a strapping fellow, tall and of large frame, with dark eyes, smooth face and jet black hair. He was on this trip dressed with buff colored coat and vest, with metal buttons of silvery sheen—the vest, long in front, which had pointed tips. The coat was tight fitting and short, reaching only to the waist line of the trousers, which were balloon-like affairs, of length so ample that they almost completely covered the wooden shoes, hiding the blue stockings of mother's make. He was a master of men, shrewd at driving bargains, inherited from his mother, and withal just the kind of a man for hard, heavy pioneer work, both mental and physical. After returning to business he made arrangements to dispose of his furs to the various dealers, of whom there were many at that time, each one driving his bargains with Indians at his place of business. All were leagued together to get the furs for almost nothing when compared with the cheap articles given in exchange. This mode of business was unfair to the Red man, and became so bad that the State (New York) stepped in, enacting laws prohibiting dealers from purchasing at their places of business, and establishing public places where purchases must be made publicly and openly, at auction by the highest bidder, at a price approved by the agent in charge.

Hartman established a trading post upon the island immediately after he obtained title, and being without family of his own, went there to reside with a younger brother. This trading post building was at the point of intersection of the center lines of Essex and Seventh Streets, extended. An old tree which, until recently, stood at this spot, is be-





lieved to have been a growth from the original tree that sheltered the first building ever erected by a white man in the present County of Passaic.

It was not long before Hartman gave up his position in New York and confined himself to his island home, which his new business required. It grew by leaps and bounds, as Indians from near and far came to exchange their furs for guns, powder, knives, daggers, socks, stockings, coats, blankets, cloth, calico, duffel (a coarse cotton cloth), handkerchiefs, pipes, tobacco, rum, and many other articles, which Hartman carried in profusion. His was the only trading post for many miles around, of whose convenience the Indians boasted and appreciated. It filled the bill; saving them the trip to New York, and afforded them more satisfaction with what they received.

Michielson continued to be the owner until his death, about the year 1722, leaving four sons, viz.: Claes (Nicholas), Direk (Richard), Enoch and Michael. Upon his death, without a will, the title, or ownership, of the island descended to and became vested, not in all of his children, but to his oldest son, Claes, under the common law of England, then in force.

In a deed, dated August 11, 1724, there is a recital to the effect that Hartman had died seized of the island, the title whereof had thereby become vested in his son and heir-at-law, Claes, who with his brothers had agreed to convey all their estate to Enoch, and that for various good causes, consideration and sum of money to them paid, they thereby conveyed to Enoch, in severalty in fee, the patent for the island known as Hartman's Island in the Pisaick River.

Enoch Vreeland had an only son, John Enoch, who inherited title to the island upon the death of his father.

John Enoch had a son Enoch to whom he devised the island by will. Enoch conveyed to Albert Ackerman in January, 1816.

Until this time the only way to get to the island was by a flat scow, capable of carrying two horses and a farm wagon. The island had been cultivated ever since the coming of the Vreelands, and mostly for corn, of which good quality and large crops were yielded. For this reason it acquired the name of "Maize Land."

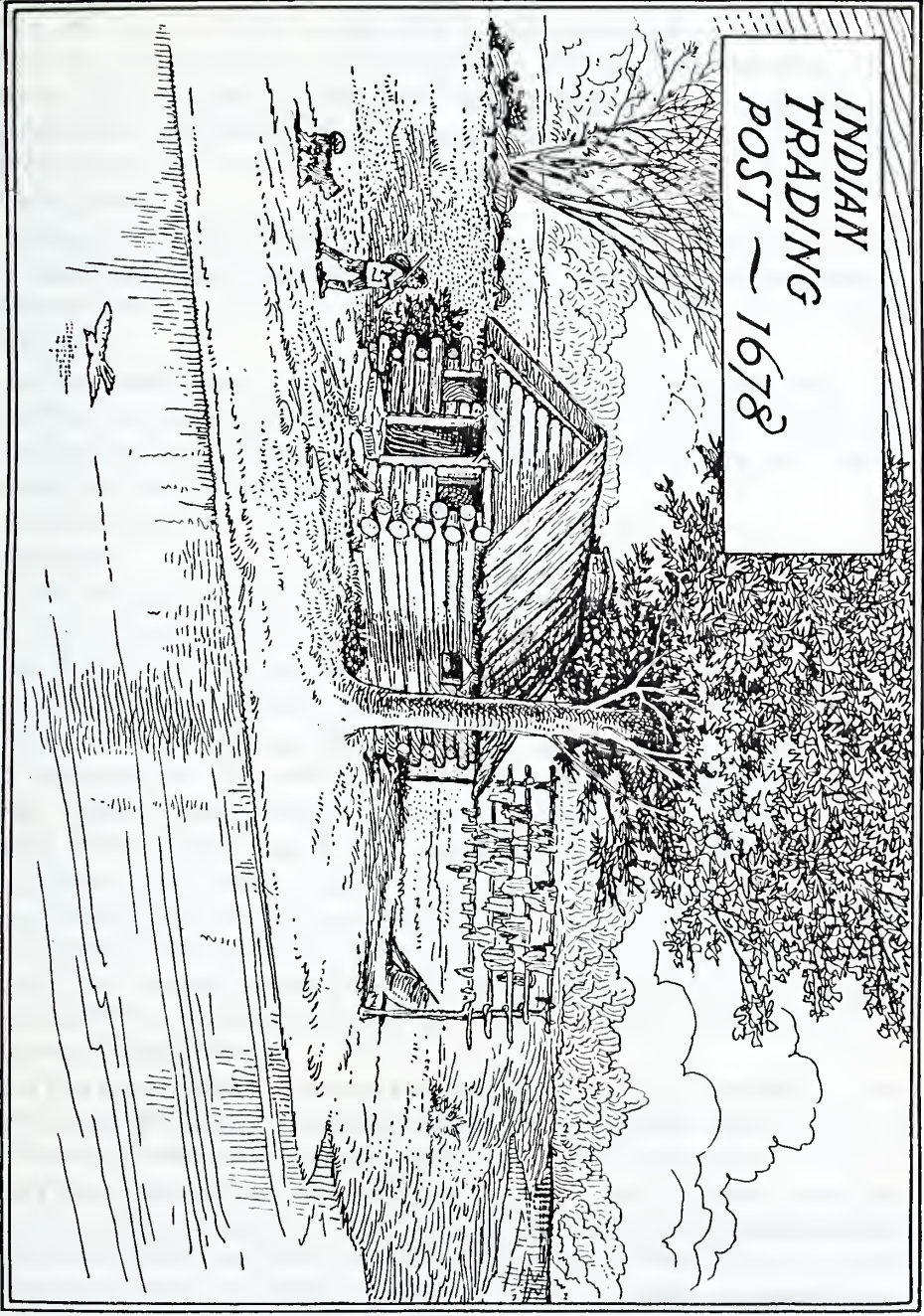
In the division of the land in Point Patent, Elias, brother of Hartman, was allotted a tract of thirty odd acres opposite the southerly end of the island and extending along the river from Seventh Street westerly to about Fifth Street. This tract was called the "Vreeland Point Lot."

About 1818 Ackerman built a bridge to the island. He had not yet acquired the Point Lot. He erected the bridge at the northeast corner of that lot, or upon the exact site of the present railroad bridge. The Ackerman bridge was used until 1852, when it was carried away in a freshet, never to be replaced by structure of any kind. A fording place was found near Monroe Street, which answered all purposes.



2002024

INDIAN  
TRADING  
POST ~ 1678







In 1821, Albert conveyed to his son John A., who devised the same to his two sons, Albert J. and John I., who conveyed to Edward J. C. Atterbury by whom it was conveyed to the Dundee Manufacturing Company in 1864, who held it for about thirty years and then conveyed it to the Lafayette Improvement Company, which mapped it off in streets and lots, many of which were sold to individuals, some of whom erected houses thereon.

Subsequently the city acquired all the land south of Monroe Street, excepting land owned and occupied by the Bergen and Dundee Railroad, which was built in October, 1881, to carry freight from the many mills in Dundee.

In the great floods, or freshets, of 1804, 1855, 1878, 1882, 1893, 1902 and 1903, the island was completely submerged, causing great damage in the last two to buildings that had recently been erected, resulting in the arrest of all further improvements.

Now known as the First Ward Park, this old island is a public playground.

How strange it seems and how impressive the fact that a tract of land which, perhaps for hundreds of years, had been set aside and used by the Indians in the nature of a park should, by the white man, be reclaimed and again dedicated to such wholesome purpose.

The land lying between Fourth Street and the westerly shore of the west branch of the river that used to flow past the island became known as the "Slank" which having, as was supposed, been acquired by the Dundee Water Power and Land Company in 1858, was sold off in lots to different purchasers some of whom erected houses thereon and through which the city laid out Fifth Street. In 1914 the State claimed it as riparian land, but lost on the trial. The Supreme Court, however, set aside the verdict of the jury and agreed with the State. In order to save further litigation the matter was settled by the payment of large sums to the owners.

On the trial of the case it was amusing to learn of the width of this stream from the many witnesses, which was anywhere from forty to four hundred feet, and from six inches to six feet in depth.

In these proceedings the river as well as the adjoining land was referred to as the "Slank." This word, however, was originally applied to the stream alone as will be explained below. About the year 1892, McGuire and Ryan, garbage contractors, began to dump all ashes, garbage and rubbish at the end of Monroe Street which was then about 100 feet east of Fourth Street, which had become common dumping ground, and continued such until December, 1895, when the filling extended to the island.



The Daily News in its issue of January 17, 1896, says:

#### NO LONGER DUNDEE ISLAND

McGuire and Ryan Have Constructed a Causeway of Garbage.

The ashes and garbage which the contractors have been dumping for years into the slank at the foot of Monroe Street, now form a causeway over which people can walk or drive to Dundee Island. In fact, to speak strictly, Dundee Island is no longer an island. The channel which for ages had separated it from the main land has been cut in two and there is no longer any flow through it. It is understood to be the intention of the Dundee Water Power and Land Company to fill up in time and sell lots on it. Part of the sewage of Dundee is poured into this Slank, or channel, at the foot of Mercer Street and the filling in of the causeway referred to above will result in leaving the sewage high and dry in hot weather, exposed to the sun and sure to send forth an awful odor. Before the hot weather comes in the Council should either see that a culvert is constructed under the dump to let the water flow through and wash away the sewage, or that the sewer is extended across Dundee Island to the main channel of the river. This is the proper place for it, anyway. The island now belongs to Drs. Howe and MacChesney and as they are cutting it up for building purposes it will need to be sewered in a short time. The Dundee Company did not sell the slank or channel with the island.

This was written by the late D. W. Mahoney who was subsequently criticised for using the word "Slank" instead of "Swale." To settle the matter authorities were consulted. But when it was found that the description of one, "A tract of low and usually wet land; a moor; a fen; a valley or low place" (Webster's Dictionary) would apply to the other, the writer was not convinced of his error and continued to use the word "Slank" thereafter, as have all who have had occasion to use it.

The word *Vreeland* means Peace Town, and existed in Holland nearly a thousand years ago. Peacefully the old town still nestles on the shore of the river Vecht, a typical Dutch village, with its small railroad depot and dock for boats to and from Amsterdam, which lies to the north. A few stores, blacksmithy, school, church and tavern supply all the wants of this quiet hamlet. In the early days of Michael Jansen, however, it was a hustling, business city and much larger, whose inhabitants left in a great number for some sea port town and America.

There were no established family names before the fifteenth century, not only in Holland, but in other countries. In this century infant sons were for the first time given surnames. To this first or Christian name would be appended the name of his father with *zoon*, or *sen*, or *se*, added. For instance: A man by the name of Michael would name his son Jan (John). To the father's name would be added *zoon*, *sen*, or *se*, and he would thereafter be known as John Michaelzoon, or John Michaelsen, or Michaelse. His son Peter would be known as Peter Michaelzoon, *sen* or *se*. Our Michael was the son of one Jan (John); hence, Michael Jansen. The little girls, it seems, had to get along with a Christian name only, until marriage brought a surname.





This was one mode of acquiring family or surnames. Another was to prefix Van (of) Vander (of the) or Ten (at the), as in Vander Houten, of the woods, Van Wagenen, of the town of that name, Ten Eyck, at the oak, Van Kerk, of the Church.

Still another mode was to add the occupation of the man to his given name, which led to great confusion, and in time to the loss of this given name.

Because the Vreelands were the first known white settlers and actual founders of the present cities of Clifton, Passaic and Paterson, it is fitting to pause and inquire about this family in honor of which, or whom, a memorial should be placed in First Ward Park.

The progenitor of the Vreelands was Michael Jansen (meaning Michael John's son) who came to this country from the village of Brockhuizen, in the province of Limburg, Holland, in 1636, and settled near Albany, where he worked upon a farm and dealt in furs with the Indians. In 1646, he removed to New Amsterdam and shortly thereafter settled in the Bayonne section of the present Jersey City. His four sons were among the fourteen patentees above mentioned. In their youth they took the name of their father, but later changed it to Vredelant, the name of a village on the river Vecht in the northern part of the province of Utrecht, in Holland, midway between Utrecht and Amsterdam. It is notable both for its history and charming surroundings. It is also an active, bustling village, situated as it is on the direct route of commerce to larger villages and cities. The environs are attractive and the landscape presents a most pleasing prospect. In the 13th century, a castle was erected which was destroyed in 1529. In 1680 the lord of the manor began to rebuild, but the structure never got above the foundations, which today can scarcely be seen. The name of Vreeland is from Vrede, peace and land country, hence peace-country, or land. Why this name was adopted is unknown excepting that the first of that name in this country appreciated the freedom vouchsafed to them here, where there was peace instead of turmoil, adopted the name, which conformed to the character of the Dutch, the majority of whom originally were called Vredema (Men of Peace).

Michael had been extensively engaged in the business of a fur trader. He obtained furs from the Indians, which would be taken by himself and a guide, by sail boat, down the Hudson to New Amsterdam, where he had a shop. His business was so profitable that at the end of four years he retired with a large fortune. This retirement, however, was forced, as a law had been passed to protect the interests of the Indians, by forbidding dealings in private, and requiring all purchases to be made in open market, under supervision of agents of the State. In 1646 he removed to New Amsterdam where he resided until 1654, when he purchased and went to live on the bouwerie (farm) of Jan Evertsen Bout, in the present Jersey City, for which he paid 8,000 florins. During





the years 1647, 1649 and 1650 he represented Pavonia (part of Jersey City now), in the Council of Nine under the jurisdiction of New Amsterdam. He was a signer of the application for the first municipal government in New Netherland, 1649. He was the first person to secure a license to brew and sell beer in New Jersey, which he obtained June 15, 1654. During the troubles of 1655, the Indians drove him and his family from their home, when on September 15, the Indians murdered in cold blood every other resident of the community. They went over to Manhattan where, "because he was an old man with a heavy family who had lost all his possessions," he was permitted to keep a tap house, and made a present of a city lot. He returned to Pavonia in 1658, where he still owned his old farm, part of which he sold for a sum large enough to enable him to live in comfort. He was one of the first magistrates of the new court at Bergen. In 1662 he joined in a petition to the Governor to appoint a minister of the gospel, for whose support he pledged twenty-five florins. He died in 1663. He married Fitje Hartman who continued to reside at Communipaw until her death, during which period her son, Hartman, purchased Dundee Island and Point Patent, and with his three brothers and ten others bought Acquackanonk Patent. In fact, hers was the moving spirit in all these transactions.

1. Michael and Fitje had eight children, four of whom were among the earliest settlers of Passaic. Elias, a carpenter by trade, was born in Holland about 1632; was an associate Justice of the Court of Bergen in 1673, 1674, 1677 and 1680, when he settled in Passaic, then part of Essex County, which honored him with the office of Justice of the Peace in 1682-3, 1703-4. He was a member of the Assembly in 1683, 1693, 1695, 1699 and 1708; was a Judge of Quarter Sessions, Essex County, in 1700. He resided at the southeast corner of our First and South Streets. His was the first house in the city of Passaic.

2. Hartman was born at Communipaw about September 15, 1651, and was a wheelwright by trade, which he followed until he engaged in the fur business. He and his brothers, Cornelius and John, married respectively, Maritje, Metje and Claesje, daughters of Dirck Claase Braecke, who held a lease for all of the present Hoboken, and was considered wealthy. After his death, in 1693, his estate was divided among his three daughters. Three years later each wife conveyed her share to her husband. Hartman for several years resided in the Vreeland "Point" house, near the present corner of Seventh and Wall Streets, until he returned to Communipaw where he died January 15, 1707.

3. Johannis it would seem, was a twin brother of Hartman, both being baptized October 1, 1651, in the church at Bergen. A rule of the church required the baptism of all infants within fifteen days after birth. This was strictly enforced. He built his homestead on the shore of the Passaic River, about 800 feet south of Dundee Dam, where he lived until his death, June 26, 1713. He and his wife were buried in the



old graveyard, Passaic, by the side of brothers, Cornelius and Elias.

4. Cornelius was born June 3, 1660. He was a mason by trade, and erected many of the Dutch stone houses hereabouts, the character of whose work is attested by the stability of the houses, of which many still remain after 200 years. He died May 2, 1727, at Bayonne.

These four brothers not only were the first settlers of Passaic, but were among the first to acquire farms at Clifton, Delawanna, Nutley and Paterson, in the present county of Passaic, and at Wallington, Lodi and Garfield, Bergen County.





## CHAPTER IV.

### GRANTING OF THE FIRST PATENT, KNOWN AS "POINT PATENT."

Among the older merchants of New Amsterdam of this period was Christopher Hoagland, a ship chandler on Queen Street, who was a friend of Hartman Michielsen, and of whose island venture he was well aware. He also dealt in furs. He soon learned that Hartman was making big money, and as he had capital to spare, he reasoned to himself and even asked a friend, "Why not I?" This friend was none other than Jacob Stoffelson, who resided also at Communipaw, not far from Hartman's home.

Arrangements were made for Stoffelson to visit these parts and advise Hoagland in the premises. The place of meeting was upon the river bank in the rear of the buildings now known as 60, 62 and 64 Wall Street. In imagination we will return to the scene presented on that occasion. It was on April 4, 1678, corresponding with our April 15.

The day was one of those exceptionally balmy ones of an early spring. The river was clear of ice, and its shores were filled with canoes about to start on their expeditions up and down the river. On the island, now the First Ward Park, Indian women might be seen as if gathering firewood, but in reality preparing things for the dance to follow, while over the fields where now are streets, railroads, houses and mills, other women might be seen preparing the fields for cultivation.

Many children were in evidence. Those under seven were playing; those over that age were working; the girls attending the domestic duties, and the boys making fish nets, shooting at targets and wrestling, running, jumping and breaking in the horses.

It seems as if all but the men were busy, and yet there was nothing unusual in this, as the men devoted themselves to fishing, hunting and fighting, while the women, not having any social duties to perform, were glad to have work to do. They were not engaged in any religious work, which was attended to by the medicine man, who was both doctor and priest. On this particular morning there was an air of bustle and excitement through the entire village.

The chief's tent had been decorated with extra skins of animals, and several new, large skins had been laid before the tent, while the ground for a circle of perhaps 100 feet had been swept clean. Just in front of the tent had been spread several layers of skins, while extra skins were piled up here and there about the circle. On the shore of the river, about at the present Fifth Street, was what we would call the



kitchen, and here preparations for what was evidently to be a feast were being made. Hanging over a great log fire was the carcass of an animal, while on other fires, bread was being baked. Nuts were to be seen in profusion.

Because the Indian was ignorant of the art of either brewing or distilling beer or spirits, their beverage was water, which this clan obtained from a spring near the kitchen, and which spring was in use until perhaps fifteen years ago, when it was covered in the filling of the slank, of which so much has been heard recently. It was from the white man that the Indians learned and experienced the effect of spirits on the mind and body of a person, and made every effort, fair and unfair, wise and otherwise, to get hold of intoxicating liquor. Some of their ruses to obtain the stuff were amusing in their duplicity.

The first settlement of the English was at the present Jersey City, where, then, and in subsequent years, there resided the men who became interested in Acquackanonk, nearly all of whom finally settled here. Many were Hollanders. When they came to this country from the Netherlands their intentions were to settle in New York. But when it was found that religious toleration was not extended or allowed them, they settled in New Jersey.

Among the whites who had no habitation was Saartie Van Bersim, who had for many years been a rover hereabouts and was known both to the Indian and white man. He traded skins for liquor with the English, long before the Indians became aware how he acquired it. In this way he secured wonderful control over them.

In July, 1678, accompanied by a guide, Jacob Stoffelson left Jersey City on horseback, came to Hackensack, thence to Garfield. He came to buy land for Christopher Hoagland. The reception of Stoffelson was more or less an elaborate affair, consisting of:

First, a gaily decorated boat, not a canoe, seated in the stern of which was Captehan, Indian chief, manned by five Indian boatmen, two of whom on each side paddled the boat along. The fifth man stood in the bow of the boat acting as lookout. Following this were perhaps a dozen boats containing officials, all decked out in becoming array. Behind these boats and at a distance of about 200 feet, were seven canoes, each containing two warriors who presented a wild appearance in their war togs, with their faces painted most hideously in red, black and yellow, and their hair falling over their shoulders. Hung by straps to their body were bow and arrows, tomahawk and spear, ready for use.

These warriors acted as body guard, not only on this but upon all important occasions. Bringing up the rear was canoe, highly decorated, occupied by the general-in-chief and his aid-de-camp, who directed the ceremonies and who upon all occasions kept a critical eye upon every person and thing. It was up to him to see that programs were carried out to the letter and each man was attending to his duty.





This flotilla of boats, on the day in question, was assembled on the river, at the foot of the present Seventh Street, and at a signal started down the river, continuing until they arrived at a point opposite the present Passaic Street, where they halted, all eyes fastened on the Garfield shore in expectation of the coming of Stoffelson, whose way would lead him over an old Indian path, which led from Hackensack through the present site of Lodi, and so to the river over what the Dutch called the Peck Hook road, now Saddle River Avenue, ending at the river. This path was much used by the Indians. E're long Stoffelson appears on horseback, accompanied by Van Bersim, a guide.

At sight of the visitors, the first and last boats approach the shore, where the chief greets the new comers and escorts them to the boat, while the general-in-chief and his aide assume charge of the horses, which they take up the river to a fording place and thence back to the Indian village. The first boat with the chief and his visitors returns to the village followed by all the other boats.

Upon their arrival they proceed to the chief's tent, in front of which, sitting on the ground in a circle, are the sachems, surrounding the chief and white men, who sit in the center. The interpreter explains the object of Stoffelson's visit, viz.: to purchase the Point for Hoagland with the intention of settling here permanently. The first sachem rises and walks around the circle seven times, finishing which he walks to the center where, through the interpreter, he informs Stoffelson that upon the receipt of four coats, four handfuls of powder, a lot of knives and guns, and an anker of rum, the deed will be given. The deed is prepared but not signed and the above articles delivered, whereupon another sachem walks over to Stoffelson, and taking a band of sewant he measures it from his neck to the ground saying his heart should be so long and so great to the Christians, whom the Indians would never forget, and thereupon presents the belt of wampum, throwing it at his feet. Another sachem comes forward and professing much friendship and many thanks to Stoffelson for his kind expressions, presents another belt of wampum. Stoffelson tells them that the two belts should be kept as bands of friendship. The belts were written upon to be kept in token of a continuance of peace. The first belt was fifteen and the other twelve wampum high.

Stoffelson presents them with several more coats, for which the sachems return their thanks, whereupon, the account says, they all fell to kintacoying with expressions of thanks, singing Kenon, Kenon, etc., meaning, rejoice, rejoice. The deed was delivered later.

Upon his return he reported most favorably upon the location, recommending the purchase of a large tract fronting on the river. To ascertain just what land was for sale Stoffelson, on July 10, 1678, made a trip to Perth Amboy where, at the office of George Carteret, the owner of East Jersey, he was shown by a large map the only land that could





be secured in this neighborhood, and that was two tracts composing what was then designated and since known as "Point Patent."

In accordance with the statute then in force, Stoffelson made an application (in Hoagland's name) for a survey. Three days later the survey was furnished, reading as follows:

Laid out by the Surveyor-General two tracts of land lying and being at Haquiquenank upon Pasawerk river for Xoph Hoglant. (Note—The editor has added the words inclosed in brackets).

Item 158 acres of land. Beginning at a stake planted by a small creek (being the mouth of the tail race canal) thence (1) north as the creek (Weasel brook) runs, forty-two chains to swamp tree marked on four sides, standing by the creek (centre line of Monroe Street); thence east, northeast, eighteen chains to a stump marked on four sides standing by a path (on the river bank about four hundred feet north of Monroe Street); thence running south twenty-nine chains to a stake standing by an Indian burying place (about the corner of Third and Essex Streets); thence east thirty chains along the riverside, by the Indian wigwams (near the Wall Street bridge); thence south thirty-five chains to the point of the Neck, and thence northwest and west, forty chains to the stake where it began. Bounded south and east by the Pasawerk river, west by a small creek, and north in part by land not yet surveyed and in part by said river.

Item 120 acres joining to the west side of the afore-mentioned small creek. Beginning at a swamp tree marked on four sides, standing in a swamp (mentioned above in the first tract); thence west, southwest thirty-four chains to a white oak tree (centre of Monroe Street, 150 feet west of Hamilton Avenue); thence (due) south forty chains to a black oak tree marked on four sides with four notches (on the present westerly line of Prospect Street 100 feet south of Park Place); thence east northeast thirty-four chains upon the said small creek to a stake planted atop of a small hill; thence as the creek runs (being the first course in the above or first described tract) to the first mentioned tree. Bounded north, south and west by land not yet surveyed, and east by a small brook, as may more at large appear by a draft of said land hereto annexed. The whole containing two hundred and seventy-eight acres. English measure.

ROBERT VANQUELLIN, Surveyor.

Dated July 13, 1678.

Two days later the following patent was issued by Philip Carteret, the Governor, for George Carteret (they were second cousins, not brothers), George being the sole owner.

I, George Carteret, Knight and Baronet, have given and granted to Christopher Hoagland two tracts of land lying and being at Haquickenonck on the Pisawack River, to wit: (Here follows the same description of the land as set forth in the survey above given, after which is):

which two tracts of land he, the said Christopher Hoagland shall have and hold to himself, his heirs and assigns, forever, giving and paying yearly to the said Proprietor, his heirs and assigns on every 25th day of March (this was New Year's day. Editor), according to English reckoning, a half penny lawful English money, for each and every of the said acres, or the equivalent thereof in such current payment as the country gives as the mercantile price for the value of English money. The first



payment of which said rent shall begin from the 25th day of March, which shall be in the year of our Lord, 1680.

Given under my hand and seal the fifteenth day of July, in the year of Our Lord, 1678, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of Charles the Second, King, Defender of the faith, &c.

GEORGE CARTERET.

Indorsed thereon is:

Yearly rent 11 shillings 7 pence, Sterling.

In order to increase the number of inhabitants patents were granted only upon condition that every patentee should locate upon the land so patented, either personally or by his agents or servants, who were required to cultivate the same agriculturally, and expected to erect at least one building thereon.

Of Hoagland's intentions Hartman did not learn until too late to be of any advantage. He had considered purchasing this land, but when he called at the office of the Governor, July 16, 1678, he learned, with chagrin and disappointment of its sale to Hoagland the day previous. However, he was prepared to fight to maintain a trade which he believed Hoagland was looking to capture. Hoagland immediately set up a trading post on his own land scarcely 500 feet from Hartman's. This new trading post was near the present corner of Wall and Seventh Streets. In the meantime the Indians were going West, and the few remaining, together with the free white trappers and hunters, who had supplanted the old Indian trappers and hunters, were in the employ of Hartman, who was most persistent in his determination to hold the trade against all comers. He was of a jolly, friendly disposition, able not only to make friends, but to hold them. The result was that, as he proudly boasted, he never lost a customer. Hoagland made no progress, and before six months had elapsed, he closed his trading post, and offered his land for sale to Hartman who (not because he wanted or needed it), considered it worth while to own in order to head off possible competitors in the fur business. But he was too shrewd to buy it outright just then, not knowing what would be the condition of business or real estate here during the coming years, and entered into an agreement to purchase bearing date February 16, 1679.

The year 1679 was one noted for a boom in real estate hereabouts. In March the Indians conveyed the Saddle River tract of 5,400 acres, and in the same month the tract subsequently known as the Acquackanonk Patent of 15,000 acres, and now the Point Patent, was to change owners. Walling Jacobse (Van Winkle) purchased Wallington, while the land now occupied by the Waldrich Bleachery, Delawanna, was purchased by Samuel Blum. What should have been the cause for so many sales at this time is difficult to even surmise. The object, how-





ever, was not speculation, but to secure permanent homes for thrifty, hardworking, frugal people, five-sixths of whom were Hollanders.

Before Hartman's option expired, Hoagland died intestate, whereupon the legal title to the entire Point Patent descended to his only child, Richard, an infant four years of age, subject to the dower of his mother, Catrina. Instead of taking legal proceedings, the parties decided to await the boy's coming of age after which, on April 23, 1696, Hartman obtained a deed from Richard and his mother for all the Point Patent of which Hartman had been in possession since the date of the agreement with Hoagland, during which time his three brothers were here with him cultivating some of the land.

The fur business had come to a close leaving Hartman a rich man, as wealth was then reckoned. The brothers resided in what was for a century, at least, known as the Vreeland-Point-lot-house, which was located 100 feet east of Sixth Street and 150 feet north of Wall Street, as now laid. This was the second house in the county and was subsequently given by Hartman to his brother John. The original building was the trading post of Hoagland. Remnants of it were to be seen in the Vreeland house which stood on its site until 1889.

There is a lumber shed there now. A suitable monument marking the sites of these two ancient trading posts would be most appropriate. Fortunately, the older one is on public ground and would be an attraction to the public park.

For many years that portion of Point Patent lying east of the present Third Street and bounded north, east and south by the Passaic River, was known and spoken and written of as Stoffel's Point in honor of Jacob Stoffelson, no doubt, although some have thought it was so called in remembrance of Christopher Hoagland, who was known as Stoffel (Christofel) Hoagland. After the Vreelands parted with the land the word Stoffel was dropped and until the time of our Civil War the words "the Point" only were used to designate it. For the last quarter century the word "Point" has been obsolete.

The Point Patent is bounded as follows: On the west by a line commencing at a point on the westerly side of Prospect Street 100 feet south of Park Place, thence due north along the easterly face of a stone wall, a board line fence, the rear of an old barn, passing between houses 21 and 23 Passaic Avenue, crossing that Avenue passing through Lawyers and News buildings, crossing Main Avenue and the Erie Railway, and continuing on, due north, to centre of Monroe Street at a point 150 feet west of Hamilton Avenue; thence along centre of Monroe Street and continued on the same course to the river; thence down the river to its intersection with a line, running to the river from the beginning point at a distance of 100 feet south of Park Place.

This Point patent (or deed), it will be noticed, is made by the owner



direct, and not by the Board of Proprietors, as was the case with other patents. The second patent was that of Acquackanonk, granted by the Board of Proprietors of East Jersey, by whom many hundreds were granted.



## CHAPTER V.

### FIRST LABADISTS TO VISIT PASSAIC, IN 1680.

The first written account of white men in this vicinity is that of the Labadists. They were Dutchmen looking for a location for a new religious order which it was thought would thrive better in America. They examined the elevated land north of President Street, between the river and the old Weasel Road. It is likely they would have established themselves here had it not been for the gift of several thousand acres in Maryland, with money to boot, which was accepted. It is an interesting chapter of Passaic's early history.

The more history is studied, the more one finds how dear to the heart of the Dutch was the old colony of New Jersey. As is well known the value of what was called Acquackanonk, which included the land whereon are now the cities of Clifton, Passaic, Paterson and Little Falls, became apparent first to the Dutchmen who purchased and settled on it. But few are aware that four years previous thereto, Passaic came very near of being the birth place in this country of a new religious sect known as the Labadists. A short history of that sect and of that event follows after careful study and should be of interest to every resident of Passaic.

Upon the liberation of the ecclesiastical interests of Holland from the hierarchy of Rome, there commenced a series of controversies in the Reformed Church in regard to its government doctrines, and discipline, which continued for many generations, some of which were unsettled when Hollanders settled in what is now Passaic, about 1684, giving rise to great dissension and strife. At first the questions were confined to the authority of the magistracy in the church. Most of the ministers adopted the views of Calvin, attributing to the state the right only to protect the church and its external interests and considering the church an entirely distinct and independent body with law making power within itself, while others favored a system of subordination to the civil power objecting to the maintenance of an independent spiritual authority as a restoration of the papal system which had been overthrown.

Arminius advocated the latter plan, and thence arose in the first part of the seventeenth century the great controversy in regard to it between the Gomarists and Arminians which finally came to involve almost exclusively the doctrines concerning fore-ordination, the atonement of Christ, and other points of faith which were finally determined by the decrees of the famous Synod of Dort.

Such was the condition of the Reformed Church in Holland at the time of the rise of a remarkable sect of certain well meaning Christians





known as Labadists, professing a kind of mysticism, regulating their lives by the divine light of the inner man, seeking to bring together all the elect of God, separate from the world into one visible church.

This sect originated in the islands of Zeeland, about 1669, was debarred full religious privileges in Holland. From these islands the sect wandered in a body, first to Westphalia and then to Denmark for the sake of those liberties which the magistrates of Amsterdam and Middleburgh had denied. Finally in 1678-9, it became permanently established with consent of Friesland, at Wieward, a small village in the province of Friesland.

Its founder was Jean de Labadie, who was born near Bordeaux, France, in 1610, of good family. He was educated at the Jesuits college, Bordeaux. He not only believed that he was inspired by God and chosen by Him to build up His church on earth, but made claim to be possessed of the spirit of John the Baptist, and like him lived on herbs in the wilderness, which, however, so enfeebled his health as to compel him to ask to be dismissed from the Jesuits. He then assumed the habit of a secular priest and soon became famous and very popular. He assumed the name of Jean de Jesus Christ in obedience, as he said, to commands of God, direct to him. He claimed the spirit of prophecy and wore the white habit of the Carmelite friars. For certain prophecies he was censured by the Catholic authorities, whereupon he fled from Toulouse to Montauban, citadel of Calvinism, where on October 19, 1650, he totally abjured Catholic religion. After two years of preparation, he was ordained a minister of the Protestant Church. He had charge of churches at Montauban, Orange and Geneva for sixteen years. In 1667 he received a call to the Walloon church at Middleburg, Zeeland, where he preached to crowds with wonderful effect being inspired with the thought that the time had arrived when the reign of the true church was to commence. He denounced eminent divines of the Dutch church as unsound. For this and other things he was suspended from the ministry and later absolutely deposed.

In spite of this he continued his preaching until compelled by the civil authorities to leave Middleburg. He removed to Veere on the same island five miles away where he founded his church in the new religion backed and supported by hundreds of the best families of Middelburg who moved to Veere. The result was desertion of the churches in Middleburg, whereupon demand was made by the civil and religious authorities to the civil authorities of Veere, to expel Labadie from the latter place. A small war between friend and foe was averted by Labadie's leaving the place for Amsterdam in August, 1669, where he was gladly welcomed and soon became established, sending forth his disciples to make proselytes, in the cities of The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht. His converts were to join fortunes with him or abandon the church. Many disposed of all property, and even abandoned wife and children:

The first of these was the discovery of gold in California in 1848. This discovery led to a great influx of people to California, and the state became a great center of population. The second was the discovery of gold in Nevada in 1859. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Nevada, and the state became a great center of population. The third was the discovery of gold in Colorado in 1858. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Colorado, and the state became a great center of population.

The fourth was the discovery of gold in Idaho in 1860. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Idaho, and the state became a great center of population. The fifth was the discovery of gold in Montana in 1862. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Montana, and the state became a great center of population. The sixth was the discovery of gold in Wyoming in 1869. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Wyoming, and the state became a great center of population.

The seventh was the discovery of gold in Utah in 1871. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Utah, and the state became a great center of population. The eighth was the discovery of gold in Arizona in 1873. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Arizona, and the state became a great center of population. The ninth was the discovery of gold in New Mexico in 1875. This discovery led to a great influx of people to New Mexico, and the state became a great center of population.

The tenth was the discovery of gold in Texas in 1877. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Texas, and the state became a great center of population. The eleventh was the discovery of gold in Oklahoma in 1889. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Oklahoma, and the state became a great center of population. The twelfth was the discovery of gold in Kansas in 1891. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Kansas, and the state became a great center of population.

The thirteenth was the discovery of gold in Nebraska in 1893. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Nebraska, and the state became a great center of population. The fourteenth was the discovery of gold in Iowa in 1895. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Iowa, and the state became a great center of population. The fifteenth was the discovery of gold in Missouri in 1897. This discovery led to a great influx of people to Missouri, and the state became a great center of population.

for one of the true faith could not live with those not of the elect.

Amsterdam became alarmed and the authorities tried to silence him in his activities, but he was not to be silenced. Then the Burgomasters issued an edict forbidding anyone from attending services of de Labadie who was not a member of his flock. The effect of this was to compel de Labadie to remove to Herford in Westphalia, and with him all of his followers. At this place he made hundreds of new members; many men and women abandoned their business and homes and joined the new church, wherein such reprehensible practices were indulged in and the sanctity of marriage ignored that de Labadist was compelled to leave this place, removing, 1672 to Altona in Denmark, where he labored until his death, in 1684. One of his converts, Pierre Yvon, succeeded to his position and title of "Father."

In the Spring of 1675 he removed to Wieward, Friesland, where they increased to thousands, including invalids, cripples, superannuated and poor ministers, and a lot of poor men and women of no occupation or means of livelihood, and, although all who were physically able to perform manual labor, assisted in the work on the church farm, this was not sufficient to support them. To provide for the deficiency as well as to secure a safe retreat for the society and extend the boundaries of the church the community shortly after going to Wieward resolved upon colonization in Dutch Guiana, South America. They selected Surinam, South America, whither many of them went, formed a community by themselves and laid out a town to which was given the name of Providence. That this was no place for human habitation was soon realized. Every article of diet had to be imported as the soil would produce nothing. Myriads of insects and snakes, whose sting or bite was fatal, infested the place, malaria was rampant. As a result hundreds died and the living returned to Holland. The Surinam colony was a complete failure and wholly abandoned, and yet notwithstanding the failure necessity seemed to point to America, and in order that a proper place might be secured Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, who was one of the ablest members of the community, were sent to tour New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

Sluyter had received a theological education and was a man of good judgment and business ability. He was from Wesel in Germany.

It might be well to note that after their visit to Passaic and vicinity hereafter given, there appeared for the first time the names of Wesel Brook, Wesel Mountain, Wesel Road, Weasel Division of the Patent of Acquackanonk. At least one of the purchasers of that patent, Jean Cortelyou, was a near and dear friend of Sluyter, who may have applied the name Wesel out of courtesy to his friend Sluyter. It is only proper that the honor of having applied this name should be given to Sluyter.

The two travellers set sail from Oosterend, Holland, June 8, 1679, and reached New York, September 23, 1679, where they put up with





friends and made numerous trips over Long Island, Staten Island, parts of Westchester and New Jersey. While visiting Bergen (now Jersey City) a person offered to take them through the Northwest Kil (Passaic River) where they wanted to go and inspect the Acquackanonk Patent land which included Passaic, Clifton, Little Falls and Paterson, and was considered the best in New Netherland, but they did not undertake the trip then, October, 1679, deferring it until March 4, 1780, when they started in a small sail boat, from Constable's hook, with Hans, an Indian, as their guide.

After passing Newark, the wind failed them and they took to the oars, rowing against an ebb tide to a house on the northeast side belonging to Captain Berry. This house stood not far from the junction of the present Park Avenue and the old River Road, Lyndhurst. The house, a very large one, was poorly furnished. Only a negro was to be seen there. During that evening Hans, the guide, told them the opinion of Indians in relation to the Godhead, creation and government of all things. With no fire and rain soaked clothes and without a bed or covering they lay all night shivering in a board bunk that was bare and wet.

Early in the morning of the next day, it had rained and they started at daybreak to the boat and rowed out into the stream and proceeded against a strong ebb tide. As this is the first and only recorded record of the visit of the first white man to this locality it is thought better to quote the exact language of the journal of that visit, in its (to us) interesting portions.

The journal proceeds with:

We went ashore about eight or half past eight to breakfast, (this was about at Carlton Hill) and had great difficulty in making a fire for all the brush was wet through with the rain. We were fortunate enough at last to succeed. We took a walk for a short distance into the woods, which were not the poorest. (These woods were about Carlton Hill Bleachery). In the meanwhile the ebb had run out, the water was calm, and taking a little of the flood, we rowed on, until we arrived at Ackquekenon about one o'clock in the afternoon. Ackquekenon is a tract of land of about twelve thousand morgen, (a morgen was equal to two acres) which Jaques of Najack, with seven or eight associates, had purchased from the Indians, the deed of which (dated, March 28, 1679), we have seen, and the entire price of which amounted to 100 or 150 guilders, Holland money, (guilder was about forty cents of our money) at the most. It is a fine piece of land, the best tract of woodland that we have seen, except one at the south. It is not very abundant in wood, but has enough for building purposes, fuel, etc. On one side of it is the Northwest Kil, navigable by large boats and yachts thus far, but not beyond. (This was in the vicinity of our President Street). On the other side there is a small creek, (thereafter and still Saddle River) by which it is almost surrounded, affording water sufficient, both summer and winter, to drive several mills. When we reached here we took our provisions and whatever was loose out of the boat into the hut of the Indian, of whom there is only one on this whole tract.

(The Indian was Nachpunk whose hut was near the present Saddle



River Avenue and Midland Avenue crossing, in the City of Garfield.—Editor).

After dinner they walked up to the falls, at the present City of Paterson, which was a great place for fish and to which Indians came up the river by canoe, which were easily and quickly filled with fish caught at the bottom of the falls. They returned about eight o'clock to the Indian hut where they endeavored to obtain rest and dry themselves, as best they could. They could not stand up on account of the smoke, and there were no means for sitting, unless on the ground. They were finally compelled to lie down, and at first, so long as it was warm it went very well. But the fire being almost out, the hut airy and the wind being no longer kept out by the heat in the opening through which the smoke escaped, they became too stiff to move.

The longed for day came at last. They went out in the snow to look through the woods and along the little stream to see whether it would be worth the trouble to erect a saw-mill for sawing timber for sale. But although they found the stream suitable for mills, they did not find proper and sufficient timber. The soil seemed good and it was their opinion that the place was so well situated as it could be to make a village or city. They close their description with:

"The land on both sides of the Northwest Kil is all taken up and the prospect is that the whole region will soon be inhabited. Already it is taken up on the southside as high up as the falls."

They went aboard their boat about 9 a. m. that day, March 6, 1680, and started to return to New York, with a westerly wind, light and gusty, reaching their destination at 8 p. m. that day. In describing their departure from Passaic they say.

"If the wind in this river do not come straight behind you, not much benefit is gained because of the high land on both sides and the bay so winding." The river was the pleasantest they had seen, with clean bottom and fresh water, flanked with beautiful timber of evergreens, pines, cedars and many other species of tree.

Our travelers continued their tour of inspection by visiting places in lower New York, the eastern part of Delaware as far as Chesapeake Bay. They finally decided upon Bohemia Manor, at the junction of Elk and Bohemia Rivers at the head of Chesapeake Bay. Shortly thereafter Sluyter and Dankers returned to Friesland and made a favorable report to the community then at Wieward. They were again sent to New York to establish the colony, setting sail from Amsterdam, April 12, and reaching New York, July 27, 1683. They negotiated for the gift of a tract of land in Bohemia Manor for which a deed was obtained August 11, 1684. Activities were carried on for about fourteen years. It was not long, however, before Sluyter, the leader, began to domineer in an austere manner. His word was law. All ate at the same table, performed the same labor, inside and outside, and slept together on the



floor in large rooms—all done to promote interest in the welfare of all.

These scandalous actions caused some to abandon the community and prevented new additions to their number, which with deaths, so weakened them that at the end of fourteen years, the community church ceased existence, both here in America and in the old country and was never resurrected, so that today the name Labadist exists only as a memory of some well intentioned but misguided religious zealots.





## CHAPTER VI.

### THE GREAT, OR "ACQUACKANONK PATENT."

To the Michaelse brothers must go the credit for the purchase of the Acquackanonk Patent. Hartman seems to have placed great faith in the future of old Acquackanonk. The assistance of his brothers, who attended to the fur business and farming, gave him time to walk over and examine the country for miles around.

It was evident to him that the fur business would sooner or later come to an end. Then what? He advised with his mother and brothers. With one accord they concluded that it would be a good thing to become associated with ten other men, purchase the Acquackanonk Patent, and divide the same among themselves. Hartman wasted no time in making a list of the best and wealthiest men of his acquaintance, to whom he went, explained his plan, and secured their co-operation. With two exceptions, they were all Hollanders, residing at Communipaw and Abasi-mus, now Jersey City. They had come from Holland, most of them, with families quite numerous, and were living only temporarily with relatives or friends, awaiting an opportunity to select a farm upon which to settle; and they were, in fact, glad to avail themselves of the opportunity given them by Hartman, of whom they had heard and knew.

There were some who, while lacking families, had great expectations. Among them were brewers, tanners, woodsmen, skilled mechanics, and plain farmers, many of the latter having been farm servants in the old country—all capable men.

The first thing necessary to do was to obtain a deed from the Indians. Hartman was delegated to make all negotiations with them. Accompanied by Jacob Stoffelson and Hans, who had accompanied him a year before, he visited the headquarters of the Indians, and made a contract to purchase all the land extending from Yantacaw River, on the south, the mountain on the west, and the Passaic River on the north and east, the deed for which was to be delivered at Communipaw March 27, 1679. The following is a copy of the important part of that instrument. It was the law that a patent (or deed), for any land was never given until one had been first obtained from the Indians, who in every instance were paid their price. It is for this reason that the first and succeeding settlers here never had so much as a dispute with the Indians, who were honorably dealt with.

#### Indian deed for Acquackanonk:

Know all men by these presents that I Captahem, Indian Sachem and Chief, owner of a certain tract of land lying and being upon Pisawayck River known by the name of Haquequenunk. Have, for myselfe my Heires and Assigns, in the Presence and by the



aprobation and consent of Memiseraen Mindawas, Ghonnajea, Indians and Sachems of the said country, for and in consideration of a certain preel of goods, Blankets, kettles, powder and other goods to my content and satisfaction in hand paid by Hans Dederick, Gerrit Garritson, Walling Jacobse and Hendrick George, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge to have received to my content and satisfaction, given, alienated, bargained and sold unto the said Hans Dederick, Gerrit Garritson, Walling Jacobse, Hendrick George and their associates, all and singular the above mentioned tract of land and the meadows adjoining. Beginning from the northernmost bounds of the Towne of Newark, from the lowermost parts thereof to the uppermost, as fare as the steepe rocksk or mountaines, and from thence to run (b'ank) all along the said Pisawyck river to the white oak tree standing neere the said river on the northside of the small brook, and thence to run up to the steep rocks or mountains. Which said tree was marked by said Captaheni in the presence of La Prairie, Surveyor General.

(Here follow the habendum, covenants of title and warranty.)

Although the Indian deeds for Acquackanonk had been obtained in 1679, the Patent was not secured until five years later, 1684-5.

This was because the purchasers claimed that their title was good without a patent, which they claimed amounted to nothing because the Proprietors could not show title from the Indians.

A long controversy followed which the Governor, Robert Barclay, ended by a letter dated February 29, 1683-4, directed to all persons who made such claims, notifying them that their claim of title by the Indian deed would not stand and under which they had acquired no right and would have none unless they secured a patent; failure to obtain which would result in forfeiture of the land. That settlements were made here previous to 1683 is quite evident from references made to Acquackanonk at that time.

On March 22, 1683-4, the people of Newark appointed a *new* committee, to meet with a committee from Acquackanonk," and to make no other agreement with them of any other bounds than what was formerly." This would indicate the existence of a committee of an earlier year. As further evidence that settlements had been made here prior to 1683-4, the minutes of Governor and Council of May 30 in that year show that upon receipt of a petition, therefor:

"It was ordered that the Indian sale being recorded, arrearages of rent paid, that a patent bee made and granted them, att one-half penny pr acre yearely rent."

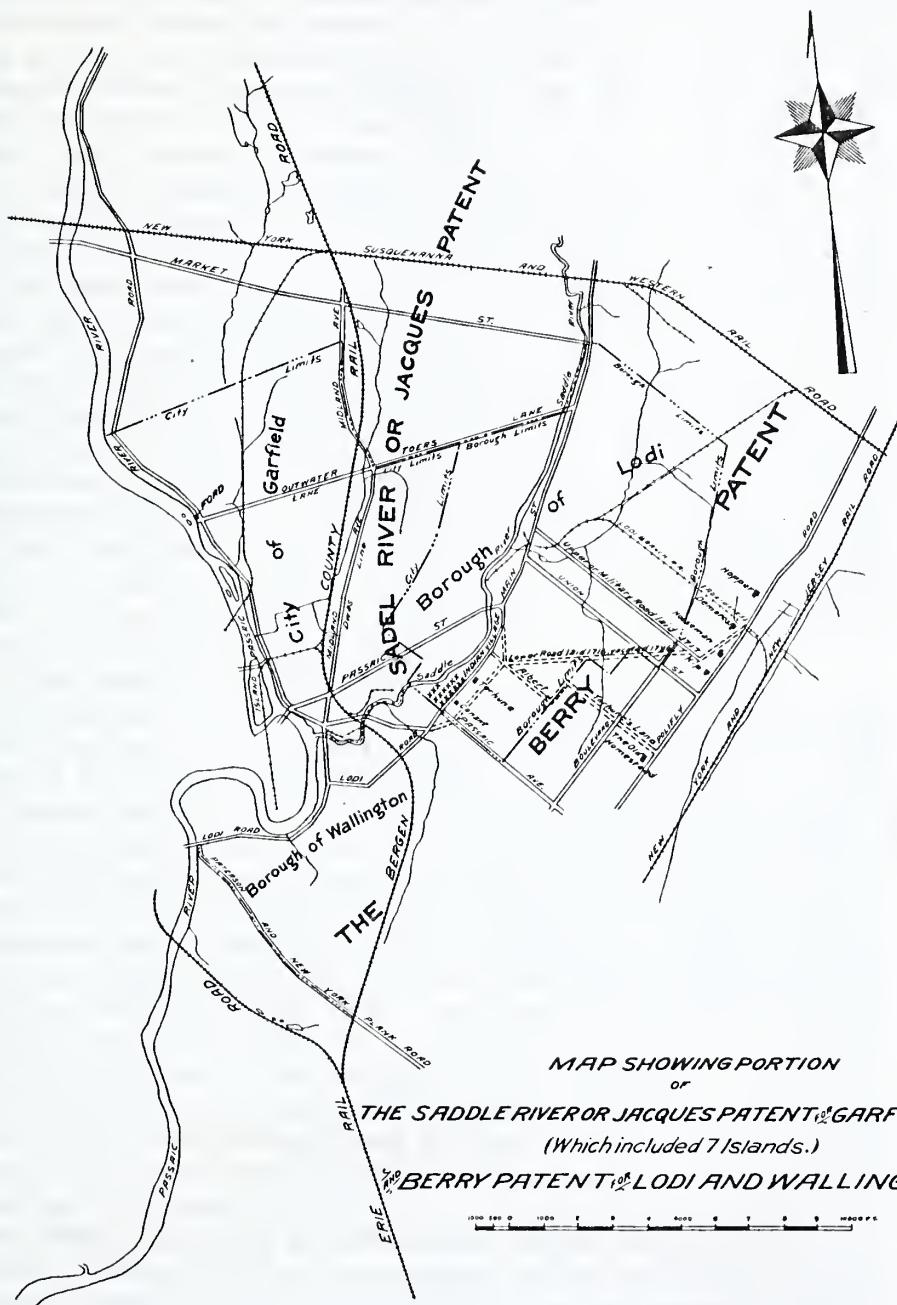
The petition stated that the petitioners had already purchased the land which was to be divided amongst fourteen families of *them there settled*. This would indicate that all of the fourteen patentees were at that date actually settled here. In due course the patent was duly issued.

Because of its importance, this patent is given in full:

"This Indenture made the XVth of March, A. D., 1684, and in the XXXVith year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, King Charles the Second, over England, etc., Between the Lords Proprietors of the Province of East New Jersey of the one part, and Hans Dederick, Garret Garretsen, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielson, Hartman Machielson, Johannes Machielson, Cornelius Machielson, Adrian Post, Urian







MAP SHOWING PORTION  
 OF  
 THE SADDLE RIVER OR JACQUES PATENT, & GARFIELD  
 (Which included 7 Islands.)  
 BERRY PATENT, & LODI AND WALLINGTON.



Tomason, Cornelius Rowlofsen, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers and Abraham Bookey, of the other part, witnesseth, that the said Lords Proprietors as well for and in consideration of the sum of fifty pounds sterling money in hand paid by the said Hans Dederick, Garret Garretsen, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielsen, Hartman Machielsen, Johannis Machielson, Cornelius Machielsen, Adrian Post, Urian Tomason, Cornelius Rowlofsen, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers, and Abraham Bookey, to the Governor of the said Province, to and for the use of the said Proprietors thereof, the sum being in full payment and discharge of all arrears of quit-rents for the lands hereafter granted, the receipt whereof the said Governor doth hereby acknowledge, and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof doth acquit and discharge them and every of them, as also for the rents and services hereinafter reserved, have aliened, granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents do alien, grant, bargain and sell unto the said Hans Diederick, Garret Garretsen, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielsen, Hartman Machielsen, Johannes Machielsen, Cornelius Machielsen, Adrian Post, Urian Tomasen, Cornelius Rowlofsen, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers and Abraham Bookey, and their heirs and assigns, a certain tract of land situate, lying and being upon the Passaic River, in the County of Essex, and called and known by the name of Haquequenunk:

“Beginning at the northermost bounds of the town of Newark, and so running from the lowest part to the uppermost part thereof, as far as the steep rocks or mountains and from the said lowermost part along Pisawick river to the Great Falls thereof, and so along the steep rocks and mountains to the uppermost part of Newark bounds aforesaid, as it is more plainly demonstrated by a chart or draught thereof, made by the late Surveyor-General, together with all rivers, ponds, creeks, isles, islands (Hartman’s Island, which particularly belongs to Hartman Michaelson only excepted), and also all inlets, bays, swamps, marshes, meadows, pasture, fields, fences, woods, underwoods, fishings, hawkings, huntings, fowlings, and all other appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging and appertaining (half part of the gold and silver mines, and the royalties of the Lords Proprietors also excepted): To have and to hold the said tract of land and premises, and every part and parcel of the same, to them, the said Hans Diederick, Garret Garretson, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielson, Hartman Machielson, Johannes Machielson, Cornelius Machielsen, Adrian Post, Urian Tomasen, Cornelius Rowlofsen, Symon Jacobson, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers and Abraham Bookey, their heirs and assigns, and to the use of them, their heirs and assigns forever, to be holden in fee, and common soccage of them the Lords Proprietors, their heirs and assigns, as of the seignory of East Greenwich, yielding and paying therefor yearly unto the said Lords Proprietors, their heirs and assigns, the chiefe or quit-rent of



fourteen pounds of sterling money, or the value thereof, yearly, for the said tract of land upon every five and twentieth day of March, forever hereafter in lieu and stead of the half-penny per acre mentioned in the Concessions, and in lieu and stead of all other services and demands whatsoever, the first payment to be made upon the 25th day of March, which shall be in the year of our Lord, one thousand six hundred and eighty-six.

“And the said Hans Diederick, Garret Garretsen, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielsen, Hartman Machielsen, Johannes Machielsen, Cornelius Machielsen, Adrian Post, Urian Tomasen, Cornelius Rowlofson, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers and Abraham Bookey do hereby for themselves, their heirs and assigns, covenant, promise and agree to and with the said Lords Proprietors, their heirs and assigns, and they, their heirs and assigns, shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Lords Proprietors, their heirs or assigns, the said yearly chiefe or quit-rent of fourteen pounds sterling money or the value thereof for the said tract of land, at or upon the five and twentieth day of March, every year forever hereafter to the Receiver General which shall from time to time be appointed by the Lords Proprietors, their heirs or assigns, without fraud, covine or delay: Provided, always, that if the said yearly lief or quit-rent shall be behind or unpaid, in part or in all, at any of the days or times upon which the same is to be paid as aforesaid, that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for the Lords Proprietors and their heirs by their or any of their servants, agents, or assigns, ten days after such neglect or non-payment of the said chiefe or quit-rent, into the aforesaid lands, with all the appurtenances, or into any part or parcel thereof, to enter and there destrain, and the distress or distresses then taken to lead, drive, carry away, impound, and in their custody to detain until the said yearly chiefe or quit-rent so being behind and unpaid, together with all costs and charges of such distress and impounding shall be fully paid and contented to the said Lords Proprietors, their heirs and assigns.

“In witness whereof, the Deputy-Governor of this Province and the major part of his council for the time being, to one part have subscribed their names and affixed the common seal of the said Province, and to the other part hereof the said Hans Diederick, Garret Garretsen, Walling Jacobs, Elias Machielsen, Hartman Machielsen, Cornelius Machielsen, Johannes Machielsen, Adrian Post, Uriah Tomason, Cornelius Rowlofson, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubers and Abraham Bookey have, interchangeably set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

Gawen Laurie, Thomas Codrington, Isaac Kingsland, Benjamin Price, Henry Lyon. James Emott, Dep. Sect'y.”





"Memorandum. That it was mutually agreed by and between all the said parties to the within-mentioned patent, before the signing and sealing of the same, that a neck of land lying within the bounds of this patent, containing two hundred and seventy-eight acres called and known by the name of Stoffell's Point, formerly patented to one, Christopher Hoagland, and since sold to the within named Hartman Machielson and Company be also excepted out of this patent or grant, and it is hereby accordingly excepted."

This patent was recorded in the Secretary of State's office at Trenton in Book A of Deeds, page 164.

The tract of land described in this Acquackanonk Patent included Delawanna, Passaic (excepting, of course, the Point Patent and Dundee Island), Athenia, Allwood, Clifton, Albion Place, Lakeview, and the greater portion of the City of Paterson, and all the land adjacent to said places.

That there was any settlement here of even one family or household in the early part of the year 1680, does not seem probable in view of the fact that the Labadist missionaries do not refer to any such, which they would have done had there been any. They refer to the Indian purchase of the preceding year.

It is natural to think that their glowing reports of the beautiful, fertile country created a desire on the part of the purchasers to locate their homes there, and that eight or ten families came and settled here in the spring of that year. This is likely because they had had a year to prepare and everything was ready for the great adventure.

They came in row boats which assisted in towing scows, or flat boats, upon which were their household goods, from Communipaw. In this company of Pilgrims were about eight women, twelve men and ten or twelve children, embarking upon an undertaking that required courage and determination to succeed in. They were all physically strong and accustomed to hard work which they expected to be obliged to enter into with heart and hand.

In the Patent for Acquackanonk it was stipulated that a quit-rent of fourteen pounds should be paid annually by the patentees. The following receipts (from the originals in the possession of Judge Simmons' executors), are of interest as showing the changes in ownership from time to time:

Achqueckenunck 10 October 1707.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritse, Thomas Jurianse, Hessel Peterse, John Spier, Cornelis Lubberse, John Sip, Jacob Vreeland, Hendrick Gerritse, Adriaan Post, Peter Paelse, Christopher Steenmets, Aart Juriaanse, Johannes Marinus, Frans Post, John Juriaanse, Michiel Vreeland, Jacob Van Winckel, Simon Van Winckel, Dirk Vreeland, Sanders Egberts, Gerard Post, Abraham Van Giesen, Abraham Bockee, Claas Vreeland, and Cornelis de Remus, owners of the Achquechenunck Pattent, and living upon the land therein mentioned, the sum of seventeen pounds, ten shillings New York money in full for a year's quit rent for the s'd Pattent, w'ch is (as by s'd pattent may appear) fourteen pounds Sterling a year, w'ch s'd year's quit rent was due on the 25th of March last past to w'ch time all is cleared for the above mentioned pattent. I say recd for the use of the



Proprietors of the Eastern division of New Jersey by me.

L 17:10.

PETER SONMANS, Rec'r. Gen'll. & Agent.

Achqueckenunck mo September 1709.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritse, Thomas Juriaanse, Hessel Peterse, John Spier, Cornelis Lubberse, John Sip, Jacob Vreeland, Hendrick Gerritse, Adriaan Post, Peter Pauelse, Christopher Steenmets, Aart Juriaanse, Johannes Marinus, Frans Post, John Juriaanse, Michiel Vreeland, Jacob van Winkel, Simon van Winckel, Dirk Vreeland, Sanders Egberts, Gerard Post, Abraham Van Giesen, Abraham Bockee, Claas Vreeland and Cornelius de Remus, owners and Patentees of the Achqueckenunck pattend and living upon the land therein mentioned the sum of thirty-five pounds, New York maney, being in full for two years' quit rent for the s'd Pattend, w'ch is (as by the s'd Pattend appears) fourteen pounds Sterling (allowance being made for 25 Cto for Sterling money) a year, w'ch s'd two years' rent was due the 25th of March last past, to w'ch time all is cleard and paid for the above mentioned pattend. I say rec'd for the use of the Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey by me.

L 35:-:-

PETER SONMANS, Rec'r. Gen'll & Agent.

Achquequenunck 23 June 1711.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritse, Thomas Juriaanse, Hessel Peterse, John Spier, Hendrick Spier, Cornelius Lubbertse, John Sip, Jacob Vreeland, Hendrick Gerritse, Adriaan Post, Peter Pauelse, Christopher Steenmets, the Heirs of Aart Juriaanse, Johannes Vreeland, Francis Post, John Juriaanse, Michiel Vreeland, Jacob van Winkel, Simon van Winkel, Dirk Vreeland, Sanders Egberts, Roelof Cornelisse, Gerard Post, Abraham van Giesen, John Broadberry, Claas Vreeland, and Cornelius de Remus, owners and Patentees of the Achquequenunck Pattend and living upon the land mentioned therein the sum of thirty-five pounds, New York money, being in full for two years' quit rent for the s'd pattend w'ch is (as by the s'd Pattend appears) fourteen pounds Sterling (allowance being made of the 25 Cto for Sterling money) a year; w'ch s'd two years' rent was due the 25th of March last past, to w'ch time all is cleard and paid for the above named pattend. I say rec'd for the use of the Proprietors of the Eastern division of New Jersey by me.

L 35:-:-

PETER SONMANS, Rec'r. Gen'll & Agent.

Achquequenunck 25 April 1712.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritse, Thomas Juriaanse, Hessel Petersze, John Spier, Hendrick Spier, Cornelius Lubbertze, John Sip, Jacob Vreeland, Hendrick Gerritse, Adriaan Post, Peter Pauelse, Christopher Steenmets, the Heirs of Aart Juriaanse, Johannes Vreeland, Francis Post, Harmen Juriaanse, Michiel Vreeland, Jacob van Winkel, Simon van Winkel, Dirk Vreeland, Sanders Egberts, Roelof Cornelisse, Gerard Post, Abraham Van Giesen, John Broadberry, Claas Vreeland and Cornelius de Remus, owners and Patentees of the Achquequenunck Pattend, and living upon the land mentioned therein, the sum of seventeen pounds ten shillings, New York money, being in full for a year's quit rent for the s'd pattend w'ch is (as by the said Pattend appears) fourteen pounds Sterling (allowance being made of 25 Cto for Sterling money) a year, w'ch s'd year's rent was due the 25th of March last past, to w'ch time all is cleard and p'd for the above named pattend. I say rec'd for the use of the Prop'r's of the Eastern division of New Jersey by me.

L 17:10

PETER SONMANS, Rec'r. Gen'll. & Agent.

NB tho its mentioned yt the Heirs of Aart Juriaanse have pd because a generall receipt ought to be given, the sd Heirs have not pd for this nor five years before.

Achquequenunck 17 April 1713.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritse, Thomas Juriaanse, Hessel Peterze, John Spier, Cornelis Lubberse, John Sip, Jacob Vreeland, Hendrick Gerritse, Adriaan Post, Peter Pauelse, Christopher Steenmets, the Heirs of Aart Juriaanse, Johannes Vreeland, Francis Post, Harmen Juriaanse, Michiel Vreelandt, Jacob van Winkel, Simon van Winkel, Dirk Vreelandt, Sanders Egberts, Roelot Cornelisse, Gerard Post, John Broadbury, Claas Vreeland and Cornelius Doremus, owners and Patentees of the Achquequenunck pattend, and living upon the land mentioned therein, the sum of seventeen pounds ten shillings New York money, being in full for a year's quit rent of the s'd Pattend, being (as by the said Pattend appears) fourteen pounds Sterling (the Sterling money being computed at the rate of 25 Cto.) a year, w'ch s'd year's rent was due the 25th of March last past, to w'ch time all is cleard and p'd for the s'd Pattend. I say rec'd for the use of the Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey by me.

L 17:10:-

PETER SONMANS, Rec'r Gen'll & Agent.





NB tho its mentioned yt the heirs of Aart Juriaanse have pd, because a generall release ought to be given, the sd heirs have not pd for this nor six years before.

Achquequenunk 20th May 1719.

Received then of Hermanus Gerritze, Thomas Juriaanse, Hessel Peterse, John Spier, Roelof Jacobus, Adrian Sip, Jacob Vreelandt, Hendrick Gerritze, Adrian Post, Peter Paulse, Christopher Steennets, Jurria Altese, Derick Vreelandt, Francis Post, Harman Juriaanse, Michiel Vreelandt, Simon Van Winkel, Derick Vreelandt, Roelof Cornelisze, Gerrard Post, Claas Vreeland, Hendrik Doremus, Hendrick Spier, owners and patentees of Achquequenunk and living upon the land mentioned in that patent, ninety-seven pounds ten shillings, money of New York, which when paid will be in full for six years quitrents due from the 25th day of March 1713 to the 25th day of March last past, which said Quitrents being to be paid at the rate of fourteen pounds Sterling a year is computed at the rate of 25 Ct into New York money.

Memd. That Jurria Aaltse has paid the arrears above mentioned due by the Heirs of Aart Juriaanse. Mr. Broadbery has pd 3:15:-

Commissioners by Act of Assembly: John Hamilton; for raising of Money for running: Geo. Willocks; ye Lines of Division between New York and New Jersey, etc., John Harrison.

East New Jersey: Acquackenunk: September 7th: 1726.

Received from Dirck Vreelandt, Arry Sip, Elias Vreelandt, Dirck Hartman Vreelandt, Jacobus Van Winkle, Rolefe Jacobus, Hendrick Speer, Michael Vreeland, Rolefe Cornelusse van Houtten, Harmanus Gerrietse, Thomas and Harman Jurryson, Jerry Altse, Francis Post, Hendrick Gerrietse, Peter Paulusse, Hendrick De Remus, Gerrit Post, Jacob Speer and Hessel Peterson, one hundred and twenty-four pounds eight shillings, etc., money at: 8 pr oz: in full for seven years quit Rent for the several Persons above named which be Came Due the 25 of March last past. I say received by me for the use of the Proprietors of Eastern Devission of New Jersey, etc.

I 124:8:3-

RICHARD ASHFIELD Rec Genl.

East New Jersey Acquackenunk May 17th 1727.

Received from Messrs: Harmanus Gerrietse, Michael Vreeland, Rolef Corneluson van Houten, Jacob Vreelandt, Harman Jurrison, Aderaien Post for his father Frans Post, Hendrick Du Remus, Arry Sip, Dirck Vreelandt, Jacob Speer, Class Vreeland, Christoffel Stymets, Ellias Vreelandt, Gerrit Post, Peter Paulusse, Dirck Hartmans Vreelandt, Jacob Marrenus, Abraham and Simon van Wenkle, and Hendrick Speer, the Sume of fifteen pounds four shillings, it being in full for their several Shares in the Patent of Acquackenunk which became due the twenty-fifth day of March Last past all which perticular Shares being Cleared to that day I say Received in behalfe of genaral Proprietors of East Jersey by me.

L 15-4-

RICHARD ASHFIELD Rec'r Gen'l.

By the terms of the patent, these quit-rents are still due. It is probable that none were paid later than 1745. The Proprietors of East New Jersey are not likely to attempt their collection at this late day.

Acquackanonk, being at the head of navigation and a large Indian village, was the most important point in this part of the State. It was the only outlet by water of not only this region, but that of the country to the north and west. This was the port of entry, trading post, and fishing place for all the inhabitants. Here then came the first actual settlers. With them they brought a surveyor—John Van Kirk—the origin of whose name is merely conjectural, viz.: Nor being entitled to a surname his appellation was simply John, but being employed mostly by churches in Long Island and Bergen, in the line of his profession and as a scrivener, he was commonly called John of the Church, to distinguish him from other Johns. To make a name to fit the man they



gave him the name John Van (of) Kirk (church). His duty was to survey the land, and to make a map of the same, showing the division thereof among the patentees.

In this laying out, the first work was lotting the front or river land into four divisions, viz.: "Acquackanonk," "Boght" (or *Bend*, (now the Riverside section of Paterson) "Gotum" (Gotham) and "Weasel." The city of Passaic is carved out of the Acquackanonk and Gotham divisions, while the city of Clifton includes these and a larger portion of Weasel division.

A map, or diagram, was made of each division. That of the Bogt, or at least a copy, is in existence;<sup>1</sup> that of the Gotham division (the original belongs to and is in the possession of the editor. Both the Acquackanonk and Weasel divisions map are not known to be in existence. There is believed to have been a map of the Acquackanonk Patent, which has not been known to exist since 1778. It was probably destroyed or lost during the Revolution.

All the land lying between Yantacaw, or Third River, on the south, and a line running on a course of north forty-eight degrees west from the corner of the present number one River Road, at Passaic River back to the mountains on the north (which line is now part of Prospect and Grove Streets), was then laid out in strips for farms of about ten chains wide, fronting on the Passaic River, and extending back far up into the country. The plan seems to have been to have the homestead along the river. With the homestead were allotted from one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres, depending upon the location, situation and the quality of the land. In the rear of the homestead lot, and between its upper and lower boundaries, other lots of from forty to fifty acres, and of one hundred acres were laid out. The "lay" of the land determined the size and location of these lots, which did not always adjoin each other.

That part of the Patent comprising the land between Monroe Street and the City of Paterson, was also laid out into farm tracts, but running in another direction from the Passaic River; they ran more in a southerly course, viz.: south sixty-four degrees west until their rear butted and bounded against the side of the Van Wagoner farm, which was the most northerly of the first mentioned series of farms. This row of farms was also divided between these patentees. In addition to the regularly laid out farms, there were also laid out forty and one hundred acre "Lots," which consisted wholly of pasturage land and woods, and were situate at some distance from the homestead. It was a common thing for the early farmers to pasture their cattle at a pasturage some distance from home. The farmers in this immediate locality pastured their cattle near Weasel mountain.

John H. Post, of Revolutionary fame, was employed by John Jacob Vreeland of the "Point" (Dundee) to drive his cattle regularly to and





from a pasturage, located at the foot of the mountain. The woods supplied building material and firewood, and the winters witnessed great activity in the woods and on the roads leading thereto.

The Patentees divided the Patent into twenty-eight farms, after setting aside a tract of thirteen acres for a church and support of a minister of the Gospel. This tract was a triangle whose apex was near the present corner of Park Place and Prospect Street, the base of one line was the north corner of the present bridge at Gregory Avenue and the other near the foot of our Park Place.

Just how the division of the Patent was accomplished is unknown. Whenever referred to in ancient documents, it is said to have been "by mutual exchange, casting of lots, or otherwise." The casting of lots was a religious custom recorded in Prov. XVI:33, and practiced by the Jews in ancient times, by the Moravians of the present time, and by the Catholics in the election of a Bishop. In the division of Acquackanonk, one method at least was: to take fourteen cards, upon each of which was written the name of one of the fourteen men, who was given a number. These cards were thrown in a sugar bowl, tightly covered, and shaken up. Fourteen other cards, each bearing a number, 1 to 14, were placed in another receptacle, well shaken, and the cards thoroughly mixed. At an appointed time, these fourteen men met. The cards being ready, John Ver Kirk (John of the Church), surveyor and scrivener, in the presence of these men, would draw a card containing name and number, and then draw one with number only, and would then place these cards on the farm or lot, on a map bearing that number which was spread before them.

In the drawing, in some cases, one man might secure contiguous tracts while another's would be, perhaps, widely separated. To satisfy the desires of those wishing contiguous tracts, exchanges were made in a few cases, while in other instances, the same end was obtained by purchase. In more than one case, it is known that one man secured two adjoining regularly laid out house lots, which together contained nearly if not quite five hundred acres.

This mode of laying out the two sets of farms in two different directions left a fore or triangle between them, which was dedicated to the Reformed Dutch Church at Acquackanonk. The base of the triangle was on the Passaic River from the County bridge at Gregory Avenue, on the south, to near the foot of Park Place, the south line running north forty-eight degrees west, the north line running south sixty-four degrees west, brought the point where they met at a grey rock located near the present southwest corner of Prospect Street and Park Place.

Inside of this triangle was the church property, except six acres (now Speer's Chateau property) that had already been allotted to Elias Machielson.

This property was set off to and for the benefit of the Kirk Wardens





of the Low Dutch Reformed congregation at Acquackanonk, for the purpose of a parsonage for the support of a minister of the Gospel. Just when this was done, and whether a deed or other conveyance was made is not known; but it is presumed that it was done and by deed (now lost) immediately after the date of the Patent. The Dutch were very religious and they made their religion part of their every day life work. There is no doubt that religious services were held here as early as 1682, but until these men settled, there was no permanent church. Upon their acquisition of the new territory they undoubtedly set aside this property for the church. In 1686 their minister was Rev. Petrus Tassemaker. By a lease of April 10, 1693, from Walling Jacobs to Hermanus Garrets, reference is made to the "public church yard."

A parsonage was also erected about the same time as the church, on the land adjoining the church, at the southeast end.

Some eighty odd years after the first conveyance to the church, which got lost, a new deed for the same premises was obtained from the heirs of the original patentees, which it is thought proper to insert here, as bearing upon the real early history of the locality, although a little previous in the matter of the date only.

The following is an extract from the deed to the Church, dated April 8, 1776, three months before the Declaration of Independence:

We, the heirs of the patentees of the Patent of Acquackanonk, in the County of Essex, whose names are herewith written, knowing that it was the full intent and meaning of our ancestors, the patentees aforesaid, that all the lands lying between the land on which Garret Van Wagoner now lives, and the Point Patent (except six acres) should forever be and remain for the sole use and benefit of the Low Dutch Reformed Congregation of Acquackanonk, as a parsonage for the support of the Gospel among them; and the said patentees either did not, by deed of conveyance in writing, secure the same for the use aforesaid, or if they did said deed is not to be found at present;

We, therefore, in order that the said land may, from time to time, be transmitted to our posterity for the sole use and benefit of the Low Dutch Reformed Congregation as a parsonage, for the support of the minister of the Gospel now being, and them who shall from time to time have a regular vocation among us, we do for ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and every of them, forever, hereafter, give, grant, convey and confirm all the land aforesaid, for the use as aforesaid unto our Kirk Wardens now being, and unto every Kirk Warden who in our congregation shall be regularly from time to time chosen and regularly confirmed in their respective offices as Elders and Deacons of our Low Dutch Reformed Church, according to the rule for the said purpose established at the Great Synod of Dorth, A. D., 1618 and 19.

Witness our hands and seals the day and year above written.

GARRET VAN WAGENENGE  
MARSELIS POST  
JOHANNIES POST  
GARRET VAN REYDEN  
JOHANNIES SIP  
LUCAS WESSELS  
JOHN VREELAND  
CORNELIUS AELTSE  
HARTMAN VREELAND  
TUNIS SPEER  
HENDRICK GARRETTISEE

RYNER VAN HOUTEN  
HARP VAN RIPER  
DIRK VREELAND  
JOHN THOMASEE  
CORNELS C. VAN WINKLE  
CORNELIUS R. DOREMUS  
PETER H. PETERSEE  
M. N. V.  
ELIAS VREELAND  
ARBAM VAN WINKLE, his mark  
ABRAHAM VAN WINKLE, his mark

The original Patent of Acquackanonk—the old parchment itself—was in the possession of the late Henry P. Simmons, and upon his death his executors placed it for safe keeping in the vault of the Pater-



son Safe Deposit and Trust Company, where it will remain perhaps until filed with the New Jersey Historical Society or some similar institution, which should be done, as it is of priceless value as a curious relic, aside from the real value as a deed of conveyance.

After the division of the land, which was evidently by parole, as no paper writing of the same has come to light, the time came when the respective owners realized the importance of deeds, and in 1712 deeds were made by the surviving patentees to each other, who claimed title as tenants by the entirety and not in common. Only one of these deeds has come to light. It is dated 12th of March in the 12th year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lady Anne, by the Grace of God, of Great Brittain, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc., Anno Domini, 1712, and made by Johannes, Cornelius, Machielson, John Hendrick Spier, Cornelius Lubbers to Symon Jacobson Van Winkle. It recites the giving of the patent to the fourteen men, all of whom are now dead excepting these five, "who hold as joynt tenants by survivorship," conveys lots 4 and 13 presumably in the Weasel and Acquackanonk divisions, respectively.

The bi-centennial of the granting of the great Acquackanonk patent was attempted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, by a memorial service in the Protestant Reformed Church at Acquackanonk (now "Old First" of Passaic, on March 15, 1885.

This Board, failing to realize the importance of the event, had kept the public in ignorance of the celebration, invited no one but Rev. Dr. Leavens, and proceeded quietly, in a body to the church. On one side of the pulpit hung a large paper showing one-half dozen spellings of Acquackanonk, in use during nearly two centuries. After a prayer by Dr. Leavens, Mayor Spencer delivered a lot of funny stories about elections, skating rinks and foot races, comparing the luxuries of the present, to the hardships of the past days. When he had finished an historical address, prepared by the late William Nelson, was read by Charles A. Shriner. This ended the celebration which was so unsatisfactory to all concerned, that measures were soon taken by the Board of Trade to have a more fitting celebration. Committees were appointed and planned to hold it June 12, 1886, when it took place on a grand scale. The Governor was here, leading the street parade enlivened by brass bands and shouts of the multitude, followed by exercises, speeches and songs in the old church, followed by a banquet.

Thirty-four years later "The Story of Passaic" was Told Amid Natural Setting in Allwood at the Annual Picnic of employees and by employees of the Passaic and Allwood plants of the Brighton Mills, at Allwood, on Saturday afternoon, June 19, 1920. The pageant was the most wonderful ever presented in this part of the country, and taught a lesson in history which by many could have been learned in no other way.





## CHAPTER VII.

### "ACQUACKANONK"—ORIGIN OF THE ORIGINAL NAME OF PASSAIC—DESCRIPTION OF THE OLD TOWN.

Originally, as is well known, Passaic was called Acquackanonk. The latter word is found as early as 1640, and has been spelled very many ways. The writer, in examining some old records, found some eighty different variations in the spelling, some of which may be mentioned and shown:

Achquechnonk, Achquachanonk, Ackquahenoungh, Acquackennouch, Acquacahong, Acqualianong, Acquacananh, Acquackanonk, Acquaghnanonch, Aquacanae, Acquaghenonck, Achquechnonk, Achquacknunk, Aquackanack, Achquackenonck, Aquacknunk, Aquackananek, Aquack-eney, Acquackanon, Aquackanuck, Aquickanucke, Ackquekenon, Aquaninocke, Aquaquanuncke, Acquiggenouck, Achquegenouck, Heckqusekanonk, Haququegenouck, Hockqusekanonk, Hockquekanung, and a great many other ways.

For many years the old inhabitants shortened the name to simply "Quacknick." In the early spelling the "H" was used as often as the "A" at the beginning of the word. It was not until the early part of the last century that the "H" was dropped entirely. Again, in many Indian names the letter "h," time and again, is used as an abbreviation of the Latin "habeo"—to hold. Various attempts have been made to give the meaning of the word. The Rev. John Heckewelder, the Moravian minister, thought it was derived from "Tachquahacanena," which means "where they manufactured mortars or pounding stones." Others have thought the name signified: "Place where fishing is done with bush nets," "Place where the pine tree grows," "Place where the land is between," "Land at the head of the river," etc.

The name was applied by the Indians to the land lying adjacent to and on both sides of the Passaic River. It appears in the deed for land at Dundee in 1678.

In this deed it is "Aquickanucke," with sound of nock in last syllable, distinguishing it from "nonk" to which attention is called in connection with what follows later. This name, spelled in many ways, was applied to Garfield as well as Passaic, which must have had something in common to merit the appellation.

Until recently the meaning has been a puzzle. Those who have attempted to solve the mystery have made the mistake of assuming it to be an Indian word, for which no word with an applicable meaning could be found. In attempting an explanation of the word, it is well to premise that, however or in what way the Indians secured their language, it is a fact that it contains and embraces terms, roots and words



showing a verbal analogy of the Indian to those of the civilized people of the Eastern continent. As a writer has said, the speech of the Indians was not the gibberish of the untutored barbarian; it was, indeed, a speech which by common consent had origin in cultured minds. Indications there are that point to the fact that there was once a people in America who were possessed of a high order of civilization.

Even of more recent years there have been countless infringements upon the correct orthography of the words, so that one can readily understand that the corruption of the spelling of the name now under consideration is due, not to the aboriginal pronunciation, but to the version of the modern scribes.

By comparative illustrations it is now possible to trace the Indian down through all the historical eras represented by Hebrew, Sanscrit, Phoenician, Celtic, Arabic, Indo-Germanic, Persian, Greek and Roman. With this premise, it seems an easy task to get at the meaning of "Acquacononk." In proceeding to analyze this word it will be easier to divide it into syllables. Taking, first, "Acqua," it will readily be seen that it is taken from the Latin *aqua*, meaning water. This term seems to have been thoroughly known, besides being correctly spoken, by the natives.

The Celtic term is "acha"; the Spanish, "agua"; Sanscrit, "ogha." There are many renderings of the word, being a corruption of the correct orthography, as, for instance, "acqua," "aquo," "aqui," "aque" and "agua," nearly all of which may be noticed in the previous modes above given of spelling the name under consideration, and some in such names as "Acquasca," "Aquokee," "Aguachapa" and others, which, properly speaking, should be spelled "aqua." The term "aqua" is still used in the well known names of Aquia (Va.); Aquiras (Brazil); Agaqua (Tenn.); Talaqua (Southern States); Chautauqua, Chapaqua (N. Y.); Cofaqua (Mexico); Aquehono (Tex.); Alaqua (Fla.); Atchal-aqua (Ga.); Tamaqua (Pa.); Telequa (Tenn.); Aquala (Ga.); Aquona (N. C.); Piscataqua (N. H.); Maaqua (N. Y.); Inctaqua (N. C.); Sodaquada (N. Y.), and many others.

From this it is evident that the first syllable "Aqua," of the word Acquackanonk means water. As to the meaning of the other syllables, "a" or "an" and "nonk." This also is a Latin word, "annona," signifying "year's increase from land; provisions, chiefly of corn; all kinds of victuals; an allowance of victuals, as flesh, wine," etc. This word, in Latin, includes not only what we term Indian corn, but also wheat, pulse, beans, peas, wine, fish, fowl, flesh and oil. Or, in other words, it signifies the product or yearly increase of a locality.

Putting these syllables together, then, we find that A(c)qua(ck)an-non(k)a means a river running through a country that is noted for its bountiful supply yearly of all the products of the field, forest and stream, which could truly be said of all the Passaic River Valley, as witness the





immense corn fields in this vicinity alone, which the Indians and, perhaps, the race before them, cultivated so extensively; the immense forests, in which roamed a large variety of wild animals, used as food; the river itself, well stocked at all times with an abundant variety of fish. Just here it may be interesting and instructive to note that the Rappahannock River in Virginia, possessing what we are pleased to dominate an Indian name, derives its name from two words, "rapidus" (swift) and "annona" (before spoken of), meaning a rapid, swiftly moving river flowing through a fertile country. In both instances the meaning is very apt and true.

The correct rendering of our name was, originally, "Aquaannona." It is evident that this was known to some writers, who came very near hitting the nail on the head when they wrote it "Aquaninock," "Aqua-canon," "Aqnacanac." While called an Indian name, it is purely and simply a Latin word Indianized. The peculiar sound given by the Indian to the vowel "a" accounts for the "c" and "k" creeping in.

In the light of recent developments, as a result of much study, in Indian nomenclature the meaning here given of the word is accepted as the correct one. The great embarrassment under which some have labored in contriving to fit a definition to the name is because they have overlooked the fact, which recent research has developed, that Latin formed the basis, and that the name was not taken from the Indian language.

On Vonderdonk's map of New Jersey of 1566 the low-land covered, at times, with water in the New Jersey swamps, was Aquauachuques—signifying land overflowed with water.

In many spellings and for many years the ending was: "unck," "onck," "unock," "unack," "nonq" or "nick," representing the sound of "knock" as the same sounded to Dutchman, Scotsman or Englishman who wrote it down. In a patent for land in Nutley in 1695, it is "Acquickenunck," and in the following year "Hackquiqkenunck," while in 1712 it was "Acquackenonck." If "nock" is the correct ending, then we have a word which has another meaning—making a word of another kind, and means "land through which flows a river of many sharp turnings."

A personal inspection of that stream, or glance at an atlas, will show how applicable this is to Passaic River. In fact, it is stated in a work written 200 years ago, this name was applied first to the river which retained it for many centuries or until the invasion of this State by Indians from beyond the Mississippi River, about 1,200 years ago, and drove out an older tribe.

The first nation of Indians to occupy New Jersey for thousands of years previous to about the year A. D. 900 was known as the Talega, who were given to agricultural pursuits, and not at all warlike. They





were set upon and forced out by the Lenape, who were here when the white man settled.

The language of each nation was not the same, although similar in some respects. It is the belief of the editor that the name "Aquanno-na" was first applied to the river by the Talegas and was used as a river name until for some time after their banishment when the Lenapes, who had their headquarters and principal settlement around the present First Ward Park transferred the name to that particular spot, that is, to the land, and gave the river a new name, Pashawak, Peshwac, Pissaick or Passaic, spelled again phonetically. This statement of an assumption is justified by the fact that there appear in documents and public records the name "Aquackanonck" River. Many of the names then in existence were changed by the conquering invaders, who did not wish to perpetuate Talegism in any form, and began by changing river names. The editor has knowledge not only of change of names, but complete obliteration of many in this and nearby counties.

The following are some of the early instances in which the name is used.

At a meeting of the same body, held at Elizabethtown on May 30, 1684, "the petition of Hans Dedricke, Elias Mekellson and Adrian Post, in behalfe of themselves and other Inhabitants of Aquaquanuncke, setting forth they had purchased by order of the late Governor Cartaret, A Tract of Land Containing 5520 Acres, which is to Bee Divided amongst fourteen ffamelys of them there settled—pray they may have a gen'all Pattent for the same. It's ordered that the Indian sale being Recorded, Arrerages of Rent paid, that a Pattent bee made and granted to them att one halfe penny per acre yearly Rent."

The following is a copy of a letter sent from the Town of Newark:

"To ye Townes of Perth Amboy, Elizabethtowne, Woodbridge, Ffreehold, Bergen, Shrewsbury, Middletown, Piscataqua, Aqueche-nonck, &c.

"Gentlemen:

"The meetings of our towne have considered an Act entitled an act for redressing a force of Neighbor Province: and we find yt ye money Ordered to be raised by that act, is put into such hands as we have no reason to trust, nor are we any waies secured yt ye money will be applyed for ye contrary, which has made us resolve not to pay it, but to resist all force that shall be used for ye gathering of it, and because the taking away of ye Ship Hester has been made the only pretence for raising ye money mentioned in that act, we have thought fit to let ye Proprietors know yt the country was ready enough to have deffended her and that we are owing only to ye cowardess of ye Governor for her Loss and we have also thought fit to acquaint you how he has Invaded our rights and Priviledges.

"These be things friends and neighbours we thought fit to write unto



you Hoping youle Joyne in with us in Hindering the execution of so unreasonable an act, and to remonstrate our Grievances.

“We are your ffrriends.

“Signed by order of ye Towne of Newarke, Aprill ye 21: anno 1669 Nathanil Ward, clerk Aprill ye 21: 1669, Signed By Order of Eliza. Towne, Sam'l Whitehead, Clerk. April 25th 1699 (?) Signed by order of Perth Amboy, John Barclay, clerk.”

This objection was to the raising of 675 pounds by tax, to resist the encroachments of New York.

It is proper just here, perhaps, to say that nearly one hundred years later, viz.: on January 24, 1799, the inhabitants of this place joined in a remonstrance to Congress against the Sedition and Alien acts. It only shows that the people were always alive to public questions.

At a meeting of the Governor and Council held at Perth Amboy, March 22, 1708, “the order of the board relating to the Petision of the Inhabitants of Acquacanunk was read” &c. and referred.

At another meeting a year later, March 30, 1709, “the Petissioners of Acquiconunk appearing by Mr. Bickley” (who was Attorney-General of New York from 1706 to 1712) “their Councill, and the people of Newark by Mr. Gordon of Councill for them. ware called in, and the matter being fully heard by the said Councill on boath sides, It is ordered that the Petissioners doe cause an exact survey of the boundaries of the land that they desire to have Joyned to Acquiconunk,” &c.

In 1719 commissioners were appointed by Newark “to agree upon the boundary line between Newark and Aquackanonk.”

In 1749 Warner Richards, advertises for sale his plantation “running from Acquackamaack river,” &c.

These will suffice to show that the locality was well known, and the old records and ancient documents mention it, as often as any locality in the State.

In both civil and ecclesiastical matters it was frequently spoken of or referred to, and in early times was as prominently mentioned as New Amsterdam (New York) itself.

## ACQUACKANONK.

“Beside a stream that never yet ran dry,  
There stands a Town, not high advanced in fame;  
Tho' few its buildings rais'd to please the eye,  
Still this proud title it may fairly claim:  
A tavern (its first requisite) is there,  
A mill, a blacksmith shop, a place of prayer.”

—*Philip Freeman*, a New Jersey poet (1768).

Being at the head of tide-water and the threshold to large regions of a wild but rich country, Acquackanonk was destined by its settlement to become an important trading post. It was the port of entry for the country for miles around. Roads converged here from all di-





rections, and the village became the mart of this part of Northern New Jersey as well as of Orange and Sullivan counties in New York State. In the fall and spring navigation between here and New York was brisk.

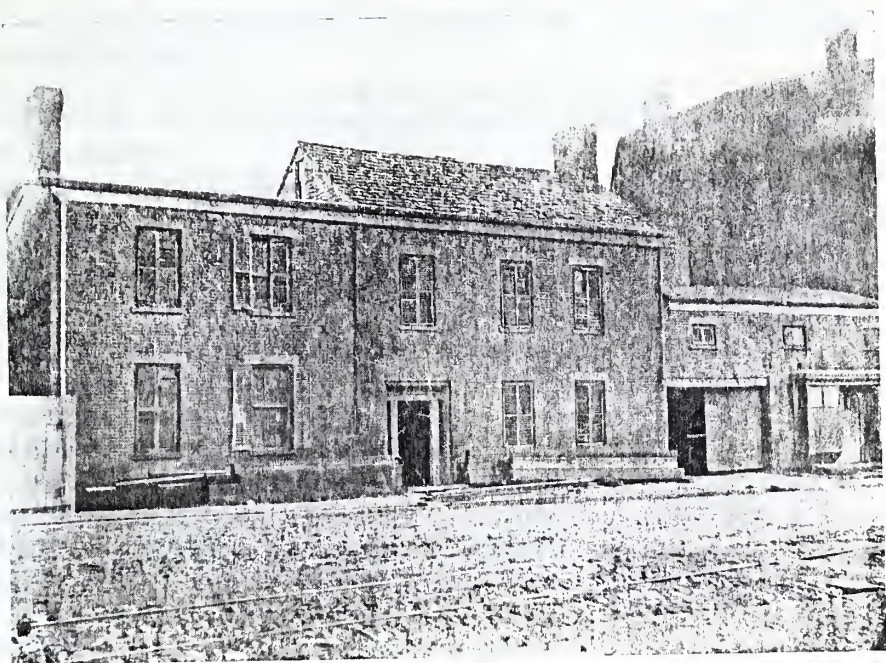
The first church in this region was built here, and so was the only school in a large territory. The Sunday-school was perhaps the first in the State. People came here to take passage by water to New York and to purchase the goods of civilization at the stores. The stage coaches stopped here, the mails were received and dispatched, the elections were held here, and the whole countryside gathered here to dance and make merry on holiday occasions.

Roads were first regularly laid out hereabouts in 1707, and they soon extended in all directions. Over them were hauled timber, hoop poles and barrel staves from the up-country woods, iron ores from the mines of Morris county, grain, hay and farm produce from Essex, Sussex and Orange, furs from the woods of Sullivan, and later the manufactured goods of Paterson—all bound for the fast-growing city of New York. The oldest inhabitants of the last generation often spoke of the time when long lines of wagons, loaded with their wares, might be seen daily heading toward Acquackanonk Landing. To accommodate this great amount of freight, extensive docks and storehouses were built. The fame of the Landing soon swallowed up that of the village, and for more than a century the settlement was known in records and deeds as Acquackanonk Landing. Then Paterson's manufacturing growth caused it to be sometimes called Paterson Landing. This commercial supremacy and the Landing disappeared with the coming of the railroad, toward the end of the first half of the last century.

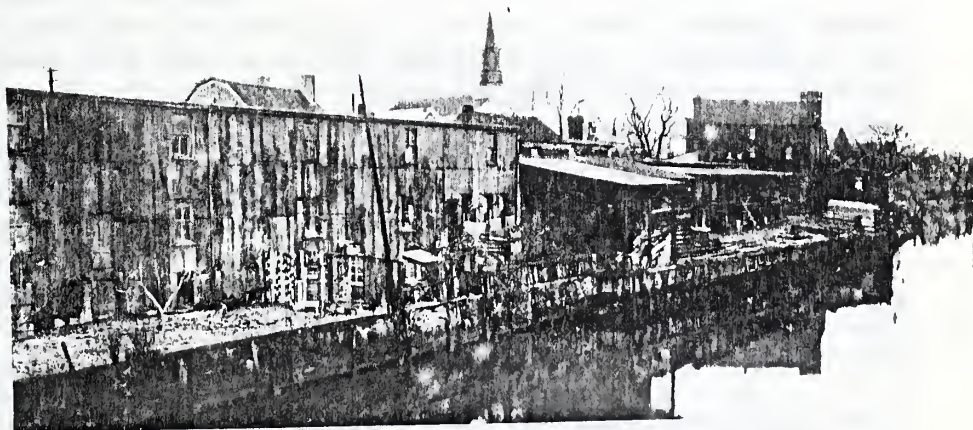
The land upon which the principal docks were situated was part of the property first conveyed by the patentees to the Reformed Church. It commenced at the entrance to the county bridge, and ran to Birch's lumber yard. It was at first laid out into "water-lots" of sixteen and one-half feet wide, ten in number, in all 165 feet. The land sloped gently to the river, and, being easy of access, was intended to be used by purchasers from the church for watering places for cattle. Cattle were driven here to drink until the advent of shipping. Then a new watering place was selected, south of the present bridge, on the site of Emmons' Hotel and Anderson's lumber yard. This change caused a long and hotly contested lawsuit.

Along the water-front of the old water-lots a dock was built, which was often over-flowed. The approach was filled in level with the dock, for its entire length, for a width of twenty-five feet. Along the road, now River Drive, was erected a two-story and basement warehouse, at the north end of which was a roadway. Subsequently this approach was closed, and a new driveway was cut through the center of the building. The warehouse was forty by one hundred fifty feet, but could not begin to accommodate all the freight, so that the dock itself was





SITE OF LOW DRUMMOND'S STORE



THE "OLD LANDING" DOCK





often piled high with merchandise. When passenger traffic began, a waiting room was partitioned off at the north end. Boats plied to and from this spot regularly.

A visit to the Landing was a great event in the lives of all, and to the young women and their young men friends, it offered the greatest facilities for pleasure.

Here was the District School, where *exhibitions* (literary entertainments) were given frequently, and spelling matches drew crowds. Here, too, was the Church, the only one for many miles around, where weddings sometimes were held, and, at times, lectures on timely topics given. Right in the center of the village and adjoining the Church was the tavern with its hospitable horse and wagon sheds, in charge of old Sambo, to whom a one cent tip was like a fortune, and for which he would watch and care for your nag a whole day and night, fortified with occasional nips of Jersey applejack.

Here was the blacksmithy, where repairs were made to vehicles, plows and farming implements, and horses shod while the farmer lingered at the friendly tavern bar, over which many arguments would be prolonged by father, until so late as to cause mother, who was waiting for him at the store, to express fear that it would be dark before starting for home.

And the country store was here, too. The first one in this section of the State had been founded in 1720, at the present No. 145 River Drive, by, strange to say, an Englishman, John Low, a stranger hereabouts. And what an emporium, bazaar and aggregation of things this store was. While farmers produced their own meat, potatoes, bread, soap, butter and milk, they required salt, molasses, sugar, pepper, tobacco, and hats and clothing, which they obtained at the store, which was, in fact, superior in this variety of goods on hand to a modern department store of today.

In addition to the latest styles in women's wear, including bonnets and girls' hats, there were kept always in stock: Lace mittens, silk mittens, silk ribbons and silk dress goods, plain or patterned, finest of muslins, some striped with silk thread, silk gloves, yes, and stockings of silk, in those far-off years, and in a little village store; cambric bombazine, sarcenet, serge, calico, oznaburgs, a linen imported cloth hardly equal to the linen produced by the women folk of Bergen and Essex Counties at that period.

Very little cash passed in these purchases, which were simply barter or exchanges. Potatoes, cabbage, onions, apples, nuts, honey, beef, pork, butter and other farm produce would be delivered to the merchant, and their value paid in store articles.

Then, too, money was so scarce that merchants issued their own, which circulated freely about the county, where it served the same purpose as the real article. Whatever real money there was, was in the





hands of the merchants, who shipped all farm produce so received by them to New York, where it was sold for cash. The merchant was also banker. There being no bank, he would accept money from persons having no immediate use therefor, and pay interest thereon until recalled.

Saturdays was the big day of the week for Old Acquackanonk, to which scores of farmers' wagons with hundreds of farmer folks came from all directions. Soon after their departure the younger men and girls, hired men and slaves came to shop, visit the tavern, and enjoy dances, which were held in the ball room there every Saturday night, attended by the sporting fraternity and continued sometimes into the hours of Sunday.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### DIVISION OF THE PATENT.

There were *five divisions* of the land in the *Patent of Acquackanonk* made on five several occasions. The *first division* was made between 1779 and 1783, and included the land fronting the Passaic River between the Yanticaw River on the south and the church lands on the north, extending back from the Passaic River approximately one hundred chains, or one and one-eighth mile, to the line of division, called the Dwars Lijn. These were known as the "Hundred Acre or Home lots"; the first of which ran along Yanticaw River and was marked on a map, and known as No. One, and the last one running along the land belonging to the church to and along Grove Terrace and the same extended, was No. 14. In this division there were fourteen lots, or farms, set off and allotted. At the time of the first division there was allotted to the Kirkenraed of the Low Dutch church at Acquackanonk a tract of fourteen acres, extending along lot No. 14 to near the present southwest corner of Prospect Street and Park Place, and thence to the Passaic River; being a triangle whose base was the river, from near the foot of Park Place southerly to the foot of Gregory Avenue. Upon this lot the church erected a temporary edifice at the time of its organization in 1693, and a permanent one in 1698. In addition to these a school house had been built. Guillaem Bertholf was the first dominie and school master, so early, perhaps, as 1690.

In the *second division*, made about 1685, fifty acres were added to the 100 acre lots, on the west, whereby the Home lots contained 150 acres.

About ten years later an attempt was made of dividing into watering lots, the land between River Drive and the Passaic River, and allotting the same to various persons. The right to do this was many years later denied by the Supreme Court on the ground that this land had been included in the first division of farms, the southeasterly lines of which, the court held, did not terminate at the River Road, but extended to the river itself, and consequently this division never took effect.

Adjoining the church land on the north was the Point Patent which extended to Monroe Street, east of Prospect Street and its continuation, now Lexington Avenue.

This Point Patent was not included in the Acquackanonk Patent, from which it was excepted, being known as Stoffel's Point, named after the owner, Christofel Hoagland, who had purchased the same in 1678.

In connection with the subsequent divisions of the remainder of the Acquackanonk Patent, excepting Dundee Island, now part of First





Ward Park, it may be well to bear in mind the Point Patent, thereby the better to comprehend the various divisions, making thereof a mental picture while reading the history of each and of the early settlers on them respectively.

During the decade preceding 1700 there was a third partition which included the land extending from Grove Terrace northerly to about 600 feet south of Clifton Avenue, Clifton, between Lexington Avenue on the east and Lot 14 of the first division on the southwest, and including all land north of Monroe (and the same extended in a straight line to Passaic River) between Lexington Avenue and river as far as Dundee Lake. This was known as the Goutem Division, so named after a Dutch village about five miles from Friesland, North Holland. This name was later corrupted into Gotham. The original map now in the possession of the editor of this work, shows fourteen lots, with names of the respective owners thereon. This is the map of Goutem Division, now about 221 years old, and still, although discolored by age, is in good condition and legible.

In 1701 was the *fourth division*, which was made necessary by the increase in population. In this year all the land extending from the Goutum Division to about Twenty-first Avenue, Paterson, was divided into fourteen lots. This was Wesel Division, after a village on the Lippe River, Westphalia, near Holland border. This name has been corrupted into "*Weasel*."

Wesel Division included all that portion of Clifton lying north of a line running parallel with East Madison Avenue and about 150 feet southerly at right angles therefrom.

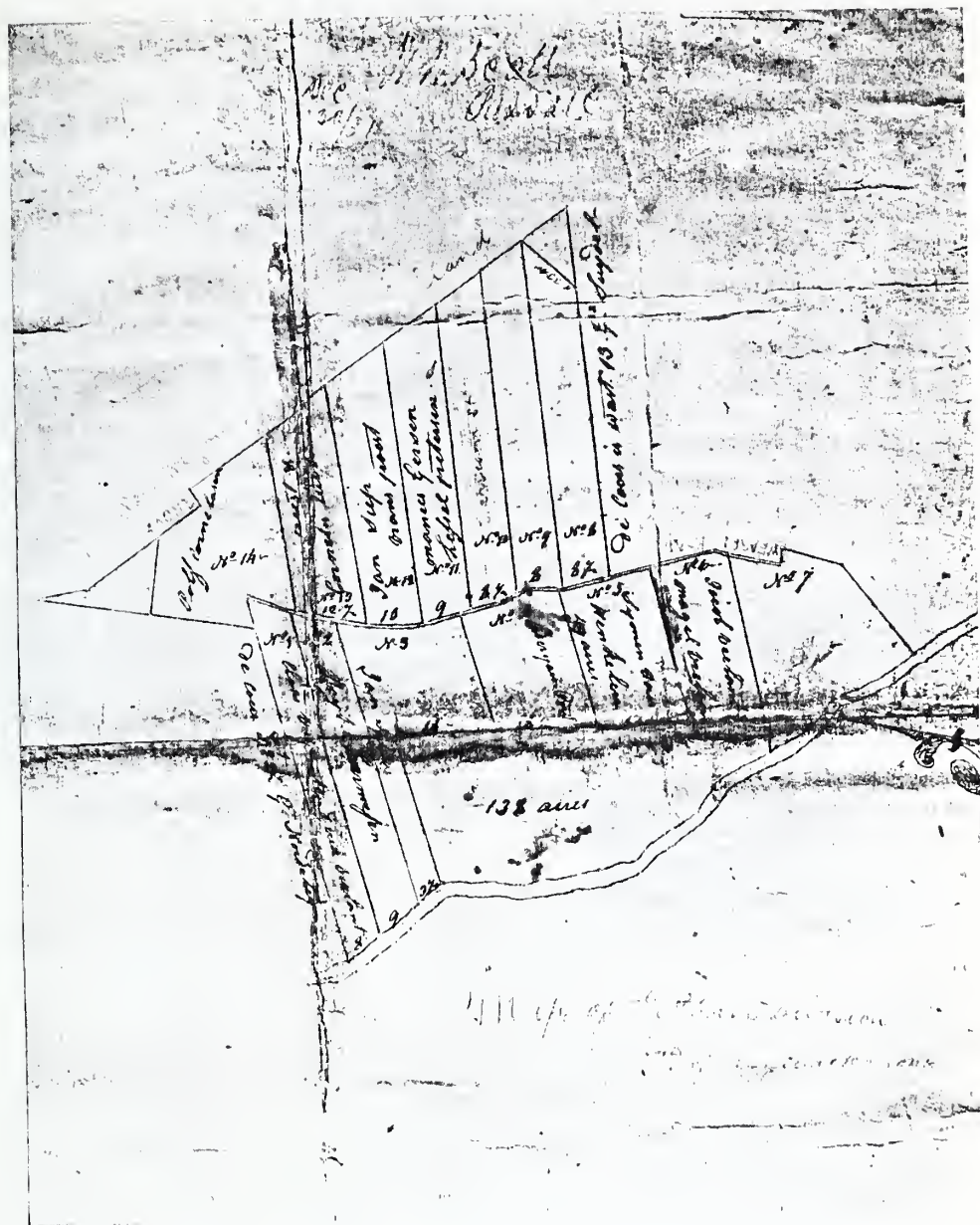
The *fifth or last division* was made in 1714, and included land lying wholly in Paterson. At this date many of the patentees were dead, succeeded by their heirs and devisees, some of whom, dissatisfied with this division, instituted an action of ejectment in the Supreme Court May 17, 1715, against those in possession of certain lots. But, as the records of the court fail to show anything more than the summons, the presumption is that the case was dropped. This last division was made by a committee, and in this respect, at least, differed with the first and perhaps the second, third and fourth divisions which were made "by the casting of lots, drawing," &c.

In addition this committee laid out roads and seems to have confirmed all previous divisions.

The following is an exact copy of a translation from the Dutch of an agreement between the committee chosen to make the 1714 division and the patentees and heirs of those deceased. While the writing is most perfect, the meaning, at times, is beyond comprehension:

Achquegenouch yt 7t Aprill A<sup>o</sup> 1714. We, underwritten Persons (Simon Jacobse, John Spier, Frans Post, Hessel Pieterse, Thomas Jurianse) are chosen of the Inhabitants







of Achquegenouch to see every one his land measured out, or shewing to them, except the first lotts, make also at present a begin as followeth?

Firstly—Wee order that every one shall stand by his second lott as it already is measured out for them by Mr. John Ver Kerek, except that lot of Jacob Freeland, for we order that there shall be laid out a Common Road of a chain broad between Hendrick Gerritse and Jacob Freeland, so as it before hath been ordered of old.

Secondly—That every one, according to proportion of his Right, shall draw of the land, (laying on the north point of Wesell, and of Mr. John Ver Kerck is laid out in lots) his part.

Thirdly—The lots which lay between New wark and Wesels Land on the Mountains to know the two divisions who lay near the Hills, and already is measured out by Mr. John Ver Kerck, We order that every one shall draw thereof according to his Right therein.

Fourthly—The land which lays between Herman Gertse and Wesel we order to be laid out in 14 lots except that land whereon Arie Post cometh too short upon his second lot, which he desireth there to have, and that then each one in Generall may draw thereof according to his right.

Fifthly—The Land which lays between Dirck Freeland and John Sip, order We to be laid out in 14 lots, except that land whereon Hendrick Spier cometh too short upon his second lot which he desireth there to have, that is to say, on that hindermost end of that piece, for next to John Sip we order that there shall remain a common road of a chain broad, and on the side of Dirck Freeland order we to be a drift way of two rods broad, to know of that end of Thomas Juriansen his land till on that end of Dirck Freeland's lot, and then along the Cross Line till upon the Road by John Sip, his land.

Sixthly—That land which lays between the line of New wark and John Bradbury, his lott to know the yore from the kill of that, order we to be laid out in 14 lotts and then each one to draw according to what right he has in Achquegenouch.

Seventhly—That piece of land which lays behind Hessel Peterse, between Dirck Freeland and Frans Post, we order to lay out in 14 lots, and then each to draw thereof to what right he hath therein.

Eighthly—That land which lays behind the first doubbeling lots, from the line of New wark of, till that land of John Sip, we order that it may lay so long, till that every one hath drawn his part of all those before mentioned land. In case we should see that somebody may be, who was already hath but little wood in both their lots, and not therewith provided in drawing of his part, that the same may be provided thereof according as we shall find it to be Justly done and then to lay the remainder in a equal part for that every one may draw for it according to his right.

This then althus agreed and.....Resolved to be amongst us, above Persons, at the house of Simon Jacobse Van Winckell, the 7th day of Aprill, Anno, 1714.

In Witness Whereof we have interchangeable put our hands hereto.

SIMON VAN WINCKELL  
 JAN X the mark of SPIER  
 THOMAS JURIANSEN  
 FRANS POST  
 HESSEL PIETERSE.





## CHAPTER IX.

### THE PIONEERS.

Before proceeding further it is proper to speak in a few words of the pioneers of this section of the State, and the causes that led them to come here and settle in a wilderness. Many of them were the ancestors of some of the first families of the county.

And who were those ancestors? It will appear hereafter that New Jersey was originally and wholly a Dutch colony. We are accustomed to hear in annual orations the praises of the Puritans of New England, and the boasts of their descendants—which can only become reproaches when the race which utters them shall degenerate from the simple virtues of their progenitors. The courtly cavaliers of Virginia, the tolerant Catholics of Maryland, the self-denying Friends of Pennsylvania, the brave and suffering Huguenots of South Carolina, all have their eulogists—while the Dutch ancestry of this and the adjoining State has been rather ridiculed than honored.

Yet are they worthy of all honorable commemoration, for at the very moment when their merchants were founding settlements in this new world, the nation was struggling at home against the most powerful empire of Europe for the maintenance of long enjoyed and much cherished independence—for religious and for civil liberty. A bigoted and bloody foe menaced both. Former friends and associates abandoned them, but faithful to their early history, and resolved to preserve and to transmit, the rights themselves had received, they had for thirty years sustained the unequal conflict. Two millions of men, inhabiting a country of less than nine million acres of land, against the most powerful nation of Europe: A hollow truce of twelve years had suspended in 1609, the fierce contest, to be resumed again and carried on for twenty-seven years more, until, in 1648, the treaty of Westphalia acknowledged the independence so long and bravely vindicated.

By what miracle did these feeble provinces resist the mighty empire? The answer, in the eloquent language of another, is that “it was by the will of Him who holds in His hand the destinies of mankind. He bade their gloomy climate produce a persevering people, whose industry no toil could abate, whose fortitude no danger could dismay. He gave them leaders sagacious, intrepid, active, unwearied, incorruptible. He, as of old, of the eater brought forth meat, and from the strong sweetness. He gave them food from a tempestuous ocean, and treasure from the jaws of devouring despotism. But, if, with reverence, we seek those causes to which reason may trace events, we shall find the miracle we admire to have been the work of commerce. From the sea they gathered means to defend the land against hostile armies on one side, and against



the sea itself on the other; for the singularity of their situation exposed them alike to be inundated and to be subdued. The sea which threatened, and still threatens to overwhelm them, gave access to the riches of both the Indies. They pursued along that perilous road the persecutors of mankind, and wrested from their grasp the unrighteous plunder of Mexico and Peru. Thus, surrounded by danger, impelled by want, inured to toil, animated by exertion, strengthened by faith, stimulated by hope, and exalted by religion, a few miserable fishermen, scattered on a sterile coast, were converted into a race of heroes. They acquired power in the struggle for existence, and wealth under the weight of taxation."

Such were our Dutch ancestors, who immediately after concluding the twelve years' truce came hither and brought with them their "skill," their integrity, their liberty and their courage." Are not their memorials worthy of investigation and preservation, or can filial piety be more gratefully evinced than in seeking to collect and embody what may yet remain of authentic records of such a glorious race?

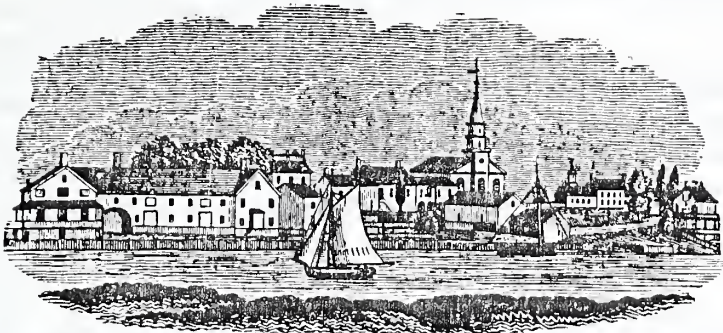
The Dutch West India Company, in order to induce emigration to the New Netherlands, which included New Jersey, made grants of large tracts of land to those who would stipulate to establish colonists upon them within a certain time—these proprietors were styled Patroons, and one of them, named Michael Pauw, became possessor of the islands and portions of the main land from Bergen Point up to Hoboken, to which by latinizing his name he gave the general title of Pavonia. Many settlements were made between the Raritan and Hackensack Rivers by the Dutch, and the laws, usages and language of these people prevailed very generally in East Jersey till the flag and authority of Holland were in 1664, superseded by those of England under the grant to the Duke of York by Charles II.

These Hollanders believed in the Scriptures, without any equivocation or evasion, and followed the law and precepts of the Old Testament in their daily life which they felt would not be complete without a place in which to worship, and a school where their children might be educated. Previous to 1693 religious services and a religious and secular school were held at the residence of Elias Vreeland, at the present northeast corner of First and South Streets.

In 1693 a small church building and a one-story school house were erected side by side, on land donated to the church for a parsonage and support of a minister. This church is now known as the First Reformed, which after 200 years of worship on the old site sold it and moved away. In those early days this church was a power in secular as well as religious affairs. It owned every foot of land devoted to business and for a century refused to sell, preferring to lease the land which was divided into lots, upon many of which the respective tenants erected stores, taverns and other business places which extended along







*Eastern View of Acquackanonck.*

(Barber & Howe—1844.)



OLD LANDMARK—PETER JACKSON HOUSE



the river from the present No. 159 River Drive to Prospect Street.

The first public improvements were roads; the first one being laid out in 1707. (See chapter on roads.)

The earliest house erected in this county stood where now is the canal, corner First and South Streets; the second near the corner of Fifth and South Streets; the third on the river bank of the former Speer's chateau property, River Drive; the fourth at the northeast corner of Lexington Avenue and Monroe Street. These belonged to the Vreelands. All have disappeared. Of the ancient homesteads there were those of:

Jan Spear, corner President Street and Hope Avenue.

Thomas Post. The site is now occupied by frame house, known as the Marsh house, east side of Lexington Avenue, near President Street.

Cornelius Aeltse (Van Riper), southwest corner Highland and Lexington Avenues.

Hessel Peterse, northwest corner of Autumn Street and Lexington Avenue. Subsequently he purchased what is now Cedar Lawn Cemetery, where he had a very handsome estate.

Adrian J. Post, northwest corner of Jackson Street and Lexington Avenue.

Thomas Van Riper, at the northeast corner Jackson Street and Lexington Avenue.

Claes Vreeland, northeast corner of Lexington Avenue and Monroe Street.

Abraham Brower, on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building at the junction of Lexington and Main Avenues.

Lucas Wessels, immediately in front of the centre of the main station of the Erie Railroad, Lexington Avenue. Wessels was a paper-maker and had his factory nearby, on a small creek which crossed the old Weasel Road (Lexington Avenue), at Madison Street. He was the stated clerk of the old church, a good surveyor, fine penman, of good education, enabling him to act the part of a lawyer in preparing legal papers. He owned much (even then) of the most valuable land in our city.

Cornelius Van Houten, on the site of the present postoffice.

Benjamin Force, at the southwest corner of Prospect Street and Bloomfield Avenue, which he erected for, and where he conducted a tavern.

Edo Vreeland, easterly side of Prospect Street, 150 feet south of Park Place.

Captain Daniel Schoonmaker, north corner River Drive and Prospect Street. He was a noted sailor. Across River Drive opposite, was the entrance to a road which led in a circuitous way down to the river where was a dock, which was said to have been the first landing place here. It was used until the land was acquired by Alfred Speer, in 1865.





South of this, so far as the present county bridge, the land on both sides of the old road was owned by the Reformed Church which had erected a parsonage at the present No. 72 River Drive, a school house and church a block below. Scattered along the road were several small frame buildings for stores, blacksmith shop and a tavern, as the place, from the beginning of things, became the centre for the receiving and shipping of all products and supplying household needs of the farmers.

What are now Nos. 149 to 159 River Drive, were ten "water lots," whereby farmers, whose land had no river abutment, might have access to the river. This did not continue long, as there was a demand for a public dock for which these lots were taken, receiving the name "Landing."

Following the River Drive south there were the houses of Van Wagoner, still standing, corner of Gregory Avenue; Adrian M. Post, near Paulison Avenue; Simon Van Winkle, No. 306 River Drive, where portions of the older house may be seen in the present one.

John Speer, northwest corner of Westervelt Place, which during the Revolution was a tavern conducted by Captain Niel, who was killed in the battle of Princeton, January, 1777.

Hans Deiderick (from whom it passed into the Sip family) located probably 200 feet north of Van Houten Avenue, where one stands today, being part of the first one.

Claes Vreeland. The original house, repaired and remodelled, stands today as it did then, and is the second house south of Van Houten Avenue. The house on the corner was built by George Van Iderstine, about 1762.

Dirck (Richard) Van Riper, on the site of the late Charles Ayerigg house, still standing, at the northwest corner of Brook Avenue, which was the first Indian trail leading from the southwest.

The last house was that of Dirck Vreeland, southwest corner of Brook Avenue. On the brook in the rear of his house there was a distillery which became famous for its Jersey applejack.

Because of the disappearance of so many of these old buildings, pains should be taken to preserve those that remain even though not whole.

In 1713 the church erected a parsonage in front of the church which for a number of years was used by church members from the far country to warm themselves and eat their lunches. This was the tavern where Washington stayed on the night of November 21, 1776. The only bridge across the river was built here about 1745, affording a direct route from the south to the north, at which a military guard was stationed during the Revolution. Acquackanonk furnished many men in that war, not only in the military but in the naval service, and became noted for her support of the object for which the colonies fought.





Stages ran to Newark, thence to New York daily, and to Sussex county twice each week.

The coming of the Erie Railroad, 1836, soon put an end to the stages, and river commerce, but other lines of business continued as usual and the neighborhood remained a farming community until the Dundee Manufacturing Company came here and in 1859 erected the Dundee dam, followed by the canal. The future benefits were apparent to Charles M. K. Paulison, then of Hackensack, who came here in 1863, soon after purchased tracts of land in the Hill section, laid out streets, erected houses and sold lots. This enterprise brought a new and different and more enterprising class to the place, who were the means of having first the village (1869) and four years later the City of Passaic, incorporated.

In the meantime the backbone of the material corporate body was being built up by new industries which located along the canal, requiring artisans, mechanics and workmen of many kinds who came here gradually until 1889 when the Botany Worsted Mills located here, drawing thousands of operatives. Other large industries followed until Passaic ranked among the leading industrial cities of the country.

The first trolley road in the State was constructed here in 1889.

Passaic is the second city in the State to adopt Commission government, and the first to equip her fire department with electrically propelled apparatus.

During the two decades, 1890-1910, this city led all others in the country in growth of one hundred per cent.

At the present time she has three steam railroads, three trolley roads, twelve public schools, and over fifty religious societies of various creeds.

The city is well governed, well sewered and healthful, most beautiful and convenient in location, and offers every modern convenience and hearty welcome to him who comes to visit or remain permanently.



## CHAPTER X.

### DUTCH GENEALOGY AND EARLY DUTCH HOUSES.

The records of the Reformed Churches of this State are so full of data respecting the first settlers that one may compile a history of any family from them. Particularly is this so of the records of the Reformed (Dutch) Church at Acquackanonk, which are very full. For instance: "July 26, 1736, married—Jacob Themust, widower, born in Hooghduitschland, Hooghwijzel Darmstad, to Barba Thewalt, born in H. Duijtschland, named Moxter, both living in Tawachgouw." Or, "Cornelis Hendrickzen, young man, son of Hend. Gerritzen, to Claesje Pietersze, both born and living at Aghquechnonk." Were it not for the description following the young man's name, he would be Hendrickzen, instead of Gerritzen or Garrison. Very often the full name of the first wife of a widower is given, as well as the full name of the first husband of a widow.

In the case of a baptism there are the names: of the child and date of birth; of the father; full maiden name of the mother, and of the witnesses. The following is a sample:

Parents, Gerrit Hermanse, Annaetje Sip; Compeer, John Wallings; Peet, H. Sip; Child, Annaetje; Birth, Sept. 12; Baptism, Sept. 26. All preceded by the year.

While, as a rule, the names entered in these records may be read and understood, many of the earlier ones should be transposed, as in the last above entry the name of the parent was Hermanus Gerritse. A general knowledge of these names is necessary to read them correctly. Then again the Dutch minister had his troubles when he attempted to translate English, French and Scottish names into Dutch for the sounds of which there were no equivalents in the Dutch. "Siaque," for instance, was an attempt to give the sound of the French "Jacques." One of the strangest names met with in the Hackensack Reformed Church baptismal records of 1726 are "Tsjems Tsjansen," intended for James Johnson. The Dutch had no letter giving the "j" sound. Their "j" had the sound of "y".

The Dutch girl never lost her identity, never merged her maiden name in that of her husband. Echje Vreeland, who married Cornelis Helmericks Van Houte, carried her maiden name thereafter in the church and county records, in documents, on her bedding, and, after death, on her tombstone. This was a Dutch custom here then, but has been abandoned. It is, however, in vogue still in Holland, and retained by many of the Hollanders hereabouts, who, for instance, appear in a lawyer's office to have documents prepared and the wife, when asked her name, meaning her Christian name, will always give her full maiden





name, omitting the surname of her husband, and she seems surprised and offended to find that her father's family name is not wanted.

It was customary to name the oldest son after his paternal grandfather, the next after his father, the third after his maternal grandfather, and succeeding sons after uncles, first on his father's, and when they were exhausted, then on the mother's side.

The girls were named the first after her maternal grandmother, the second after her mother, the third after her paternal grandmother, and the rest after her aunts first on the mother's, and then on the father's side. Although this was one method, it never became the rule for boys. There was, however, a rigid rule among certain families, particularly the Vreelands, Posts, Zabriskies, and others, to add to a son's Christian name the name of the father for a middle name. So that if John Vreeland had a dozen sons, each would have John as middle name. Girls, as a rule, had none.

Some names were monopolized to such an extent that one could guess the surname after hearing the Christian. Adrian preceded Post; Ralph that of Van Houten; Rynier that of Van Giesen; Gerrit that of Gerritsen; Walling most always stood for Van Winkle, descendants of Walling Jacobs; while Edo or Iddo was seldom seen outside the Merselis family. Urian Thomasese was the ancestor of all Van Ripers, many of whose sons were given the name of Uriah or Urie.

Many families among our first settlers had no family name, which did not work any great hardship at first, but as the Jacobs, Johns, Gerrits, Adrians and Williams began to increase, surnames were adopted, as set forth above.

Gerrit Gerritse was simply Gerrit, son of Gerrit. In time his son, Peter, had a son Gerrit, who was called "Pietem's Gat" to distinguish him from other Gerrits or Gats. He was also known as "Spyker-Kop Gat, or Nail Headed Gat," meaning that his head was as hard as nails, and his disposition likewise. He became so angry over some dispute with his brothers about the division of certain land that he then and there vowed that he would no longer use the name of Gerritse, but would take Van Wagoner, which he did.

Jacob Walling, the ancestor of the Van Winkle family, and also known as Walling Jacobse, had several sons, the third of whom, Symon Jacobse, adopted the family name of Van Winkle, which signifies shop keeper, of whom there had been some noted ones in Holland. Strange to say, however, there have been very few such in this State.

In no family was the name transposed more than in that of Peter Hesselse, who was as often called, wrote the name, and was known as Hessel Pieterse.

Ryer Ryerson had two sons named Adrian and Marten, whose children adopted the names of Adrianse and Martense, respectively, for their families. Other descendants of Ryer retained the name of Ryerson.



Uriaen Thomasse, one of the patentees, was from Rypen, in North Jutland. From him have come the Van Ripers. But the patronymic practice continued in this family for generations. A common name in this family was Aelt, whose descendants adopted the surname of Aeltse. A tract of land on the northerly line of the City of Passaic was owned by Aelt Van Riper, who devised it to his son, Cornelis, who adopted the name of Aeltse.

Uriaen is taken from Uriah, which by the Dutch is Yurrie, and by an easy change this is converted into Jerry, Yerry and Jeremiah. Yerry's son would be Yerreanse, or Yereance, as the family now writes it.

Among the fourteen patentees was Cornelius Rowlofson, or Roolofson, whose children adopted the name of Van (from) Houten (the forest), which is still the family name.

Another patentee was Cornelius Lubbertse, son of Lubbert, who had no surname. Translated the son's name meant Cornelius, the son of Lubbert. About this time many were adopting surnames, and he chose Van (from) Wastvalt (the west fields of Holland), later anglicized into Westervelt.

Suicide was unheard of among the Dutch, who, as a rule, believed in numerous progeny. Nearly all of the first settlers hereabouts, and this includes all who were capable of procreation, had large numbers of children. Scores of families had on an average of eight children, half a dozen had twelve; three had thirteen. John Vreeland, one time the owner of all of Dundee, had eighteen, while Simeon Van Winkle, who resided where now stands a stone house upon the site of his homestead, No. 306 River Drive, had twenty. In order to remember their names he carved their initials and dates of birth on the stone door posts. When his old house was torn down these carved posts were placed in the walls of the present house.

The parents being sturdy and to sickness unknown, transmitted health and strength to their children, who seldom were sick, among whom few died young. The mother was the only nurse a child knew, and it was the mother who tucked the little one in his cradle, and wooed him to sleep with the music of an old Dutch song. Is it any wonder that the child grew and waxed strong?

Unlike first settlers in other places, whose first houses were constructed of logs, the pioneer settlers in and about Acquackanonk built theirs of stones, which not only were profusely scattered over fields, but good quarry stone was abundant, both being used in construction. Scarcity of timber compelled the use of stone for houses, but of which there was sufficient for barns, mills, sheds and fences.

The houses in Passaic and Clifton were very much alike, consisting of the main building about 33 feet wide and 46 feet long, 1½ storied. The height of the ceiling of the first story was 8½ feet and that of the outer walls on the four sides, 10 feet. On top of these walls which had





a thickness of two feet, was an oak plate 13 inches wide and eight inches thick, upon which the rafters rested. The roof was a pitched one, the apex of which was from 12 to 18 feet above the second story floor. Both gable ends were of lumber in each of which were four windows. There was a chimney at each gable end.

Attached to the main building was a kitchen 20 feet deep and 25 feet long, whose foundation usually was two feet lower than that of the main building. This also had a chimney. Generally, a cellar was under all, although in some cases under the main building only. Through the centre of the main building ran a hall 10 feet wide, at each end of which was a Dutch door, cut horizontally in the middle. On one side of the hall were one large and one small room—parlor and bedroom, on the other side one large living room. The second or garret story was generally used to store grain, with no rooms. Where, however, the family was large, rooms would be partitioned off.

Previous to 1743 window sash and glass were not used. Instead, oiled paper served to admit light. The first house here to have glass sash was that of Uriah Van Riper on the Weasel Road, overlooking Dundee Lake, built in the year 1743, and the next the Van Wagoner house kitchen.

Because first things point the way and lend a fascination and charm thereto, and in addition give an opportunity to make comparison with things of later date, and also because of the scarcity of facts concerning the personal traits of our pioneer settlers here, it becomes necessary to preserve such as are known for the benefit of future posterity. It is for these reasons a short story of the Van Wagoner farm is given, that having been the first one set off in the division of the Patent of Acquackanonk.

#### THE OLD VAN WAGONER HOUSE.

A paper read by William W. Scott before the Committee on Location and Design of the Soldiers' Memorial:

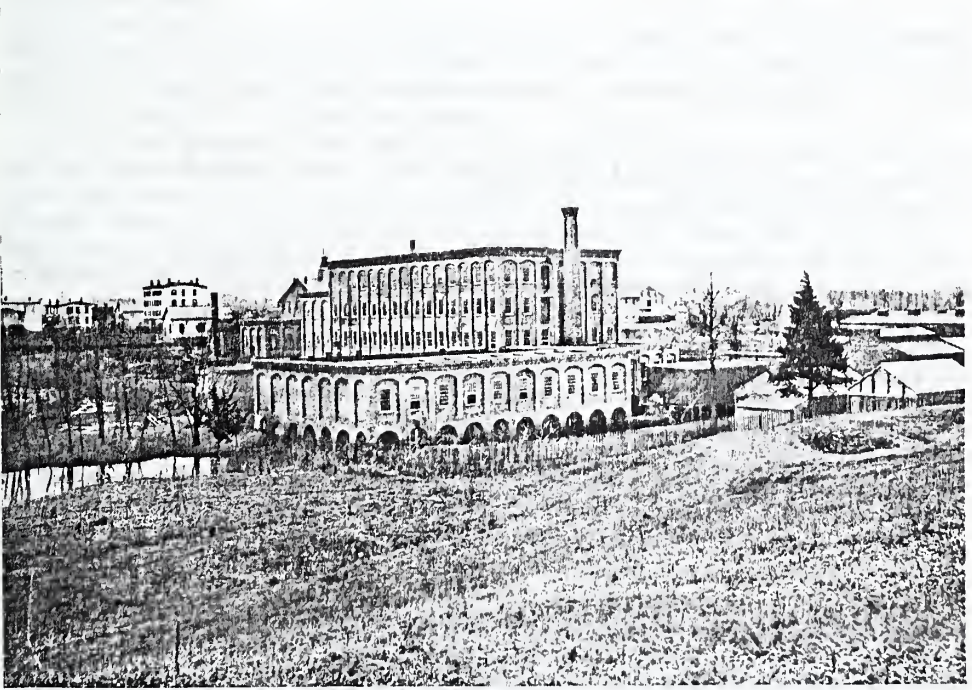
This pre-Revolution building still standing at the northwesterly corner of Gregory Avenue and River Drive, has been identified with our community for the past two hundred and thirty years, and has a most interesting history and should be preserved. The farm upon which the house stands contained originally some 200 acres, and extended from the Passaic River almost back to the mountain; bounded on the north partly by lands of the Reformed Dutch Church, Prospect Street, Grove Terrace, and the line of the Terrace prolonged to the mountain, and on the south by the center of Paulison Avenue and the same extended to the mountain. The River Road, when first laid, was much nearer to the river than it is now, leaving a yard at least two hundred feet long between the road and the house, laid out in garden, lawn, and fruit trees, through which, leading from the front door to the road, was an arbor-covered walk lined with old fashioned flowers. In the rear and on both sides of the house was an orchard embracing apple and pear trees, which were renewed from time to time in order to keep up a real live orchard. Large barns and out-buildings stood about 300 feet north of the house, and about the same distance from the road. These were burned to the ground in the fall of 1872, the result of incendiarism in







VAN WAGONER HOUSE (1713)



DUNDEE, LOOKING EAST FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE, CORNER OF ANN STREET, 1870



order to test the speed of Engine Co. No. 1 and McLean Hose, then just formed, and between whom there was intense rivalry. Along the river, extending for about two hundred feet from the north side of the present bridge, was a dock, beyond that southerly to the limits of the farm (Paulison Avenue) was the watering place for cattle, belonging not only to this farm, but to other farms, and used by the public in general. The bridge at that time was about three hundred feet above the present bridge.

Thus described, we have an idea of the place in early days, and we may conjure in our minds this old house amidst its beautiful surroundings, looking out upon a landscape fascinating and restful. In front was the river, of which an unobstructed view might be had so far south as our present Brook Avenue, then known as Acquackanonk Church Road, while on the opposite shore of the river were the plantations of the Van Winkles (brothers), who had perhaps one hundred acres under cultivation, in addition to orchards of apple and peach trees, which in blossoming time presented a veritable sea of blossoms. On the river shore, directly in line with the front door of the house, the Van Winkles had a sheep shearing fold, where flocks of sheep were sheared after being washed in the river. The old house was the center of business activities for many years, and before the bridge was built was a silent witness to the rope ferry, which derived its name from a large rope stretched from shore to shore, by grasping hold of and pulling on which, a person was able to pull his boat or flat scow across the river, loaded or empty.

To the north, on an elevation, stood as it stands today, the "Old Dutch" Church which seemed to breathe a spirit of restfulness and to speak words of hope and trust to all, over whose lives its influence, both materially and spiritually, spread benedictions, the same church founded by the pioneers when they first settled here, a people who recognized the hand of God in their lives, to merit whose goodness they endeavored to serve Him faithfully. Like the Puritans, they were great sticklers for obedience to all laws.

Adjoining the church was the District School; nearby was the village tavern, while stretched out along the one village street were several country stores, blacksmith and wagon-making shops to accommodate the surrounding country, for which old Acquackanonk was the business center.

The Van Wagoner farm, upon which the old Van Wagoner house stands, was part of Acquackanonk Patent, which embraced all land bounded on the south by Yanticaw River; on the west by the ridge of the mountain, and north and east by Passaic River. The Indian deed for this Patent bears date March 28, 1679. Captahem, Indian Sachem and Chief, "in the presence and by the approbation and consent of Memiseraen, Mindawas, Ghonnajea, Indians and Sachems of the said country, for and In Consideration of a certain P'sall of Coates, Blankets, kettles, powder and other goods," conveyed the tract known by the name of Haquequengnck unto Hans Dederick, Gerret Garretson, Walling Jacobs and Hendrick George. On March 16, 1684, the East Jersey Proprietors confirmed the above deed by a patent to Hanse Dederick, Garret Garretson, Walling Jacobs, Elias Macheilson, Cornelius Macheilson, Adrian Post, Urian Tomason, Cornelius Rowlofson, Symon Jacobs, John Hendrick Speare, Cornelius Lubbers and Abraham Bookey. A patent (or deed), for any land was never given until one had been first obtained from the Indians, who in every instance were paid their price. It is for this reason that the first and succeeding settlers here never had so much as a dispute with the Indians, who were honorably dealt with.

The Patentees divided the Patent into twenty-eight farms, after setting aside a tract of thirteen acres for a church and support of a minister of the Gospel. This tract was a triangle whose apex was near the present corner of Park Place and Prospect Street, the base of one line was the north corner of the present bridge at Gregory Avenue and the other near the foot of our Park Place.







Just how the division of the Patent was accomplished is unknown. Whenever referred to in ancient documents, it is said to have been "by mutual exchange, casting of lots, or otherwise." The casting of lots was a religious custom recorded in Prov. XVI:33, and practiced by the Jews in ancient times, by the Moravians of the present time, and by the Catholics in the election of a Bishop. In the division of Acquackanonk, one method at least was: to take fourteen cards, upon each of which was written the name of one of the fourteen men, who was given a number. These cards were thrown in a sugar bowl, tightly covered, and shaken-up. Fourteen other cards, each bearing a number, 1 to 14, were placed in another receptacle, well shaken, and the cards thoroughly mixed. At an appointed time, these fourteen men met. The cards being ready, John Ver Kirk (John of the Church), surveyor and scrivener, in the presence of these men, would draw a card containing name and number, and then draw one with number only, and would then place these cards on the farm or lot, on a map bearing that number, which was spread before them. In this way the Van Wagoner farm was drawn, about 1690.

On this map, this farm was marked No. 1, in the first division of Acquackanonk. There were other divisions made at this time, 1685 to 1690, called Gotum and Weasel divisions, respectively, including land on the westerly side of Weasel Road (Prospect Street, and its continuation northerly, and Lexington Avenue), from Grove Street to Market Street, Paterson, and on the easterly side from Monroe Street to the Dundee Lake.

One of the patentees, Walling Jacobse (or Van Winkle) drew this farm numbered one. He was born in Holland, came to this country while still a youth, and first settled at the present Jersey City until 1685, when he came here, married and had children, who assumed the name of Van (from) Winkler (shop keeper). Walling built the smaller part of the present building about 1690 and intended making this his homestead, but did not, and instead settled on another farm which he had acquired across the river, opposite. He then conveyed an undivided half of No. 1 to John Barkaloo, who conveyed to Hessel Peterse, who conveyed to Garret Van Wagoner.

Gerrit Gerritse came to this country in 1660 from Wagening, Guilderland, and settled at Jersey City. He had seven children, among them Gerrit and Hermanus. These two sons settled here, probably between 1685-1690. As a result of family quarrels, Hermanus assumed the name of Van Wagoner, which was retained by his descendants, while Gerrit and his descendants were known as Gerritse, or Garrison. Hermanus began to erect the main building before, but did not finish it until a few years after the Revolution.

Of the title, Walling Jacobs conveyed the remaining half to Hermanus Van Wagoner in 1702, by whom it was devised to his son, Gerrit, who thereupon became the sole owner, and subsequently, by will dated 1769, devised the whole farm to his son, John, provided he married and had lawful issue. Should John fail to marry and have lawful issue, the entire estate to go to another son, Harmon. John disappeared mysteriously in 1776, unmarried and childless. He was never seen or heard from again by any one who knew him. Harmon then entered into the ownership and possession of the farm, and by his will, dated 1789, devised the same to his son, Ruliff, upon whose death, intestate, the farm became the property of his son, Harmonis, whose son, John, upon his death, intestate, inherited the same. After the death of John's father, his mother, Jane, married Levi Shelp and by him had three daughters and two sons, viz.: Sarah, who married Henry P. Simmons; Mary Ann, who married (1) Harmon Oldis, (2) John Van Riper; Phebe, who married Adrian Van Blarcom; Jacob Shelp and William Shelp.

Henry P. Simmons was the owner at his death in 1896, and by his will devised the same to his executors in trust for his granddaughter, Margaret Gillen, and after her and her issue then to Mary Eliza Hadley, another daughter.



This old farm, therefore, has been owned by the Van Wagoner blood for over two hundred years, and is still thus vested.

This old farm has the credit of establishing in this State the law of customs unknown in New Jersey, although recognized in England. Among English customs are such as: giving the public the right to cross over another man's land; to use the same for the purpose of watering cattle; the storage of goods for transportation, or the right of fishing, provided it has existed during a period of time "whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." This period must have been commenced prior to the time of Richard the First, who began to reign in the year 1189. In the year 1824, Levi Shelp, who had married the widow of the former owner of the farm, John Van Wagoner, removed a fence that inclosed the dock along the river, which was in the possession of Abraham Ackerman, who brought suit for damages. Shelp justified his action by pleading custom. The Supreme Court (1825) held that "so much of the common law as respects rights accruing by custom and prescription, has not been heretofore practised in New Jersey, and these doctrines could not now be introduced without doubtful, if not dangerous, consequences. The country could not have progressed till this time without a single instance of a right being established on either of these grounds in our courts of justice if these doctrines had been received here with the common law. 'Time of Memory' hath been long ago ascertained by law to commence from the beginning of the reign of Richard the First, and any custom may be destroyed by evidence of its non-existence in any part of the long period from the time aforesaid to the present." (2 Bl. Com. 31). This is sufficient to destroy all common law customs in New Jersey, for the country was not discovered by civilized inhabitants, and civil rights could not consequently have been in use till more than 300 years after the beginning of the reign of Richard the First. In most towns standing on navigable water are many uninclosed lots not applicable to agriculture, nor wanted for commercial purposes, as yet, over which the inhabitants have never been restrained from passing or driving their cattle to water; and if custom (which is a local law founded on universal usage, and can no more be released than any other law), is to prevail according to the common law notion of it, these lots must lie open forever to the surprise of unsuspecting owners, and to the curtailing commerce, in its more advanced state, of the accommodation of docks and wharves, when perhaps a tenth part of the lots now open would be all sufficient as watering places; a principle of such extensive operation ought not to be strained beyond the limits assigned to it in law. If public conveniences required highways to church, school, mill, market or water, they are obtainable in a much more direct and rational manner under the statute, than by way of immemorial usage and custom.

River Drive, as it is now called, ran about fifty feet from, and parallel with, the river, from 1707 to 1812, when it was shifted to its present location. During that period, the farm was fenced in on the west side of the road only, and not on the east side, thereby leaving a narrow strip of land lying between the road and river, open in common with land adjoining it on the south as far as Lafayette Avenue. Because unfenced, and used by the public the heirs of the original settlers claimed ownership, and divided the strip into fourteen lots, of which one was given to each patentee, who attempted to convey this land along the river by various deeds, all which were subsequently declared invalid by the Supreme Court.

It was for this reason that about the year 1790, Abraham Ackerman, considered the wealthiest man here, and who conducted a country store upon premises known as No. 2 Main Avenue, in connection with which he conducted a line of sloops, both for passengers, teams and freight, between this place, Newark and New York, acting upon the erroneous assumption of ownership, built a dock adjoining his store on the south, on this land between the road and river, to accommodate his increasing business, the dock in the rear of his store proving inadequate. This dock was within the





boundaries of the Van Wagoner farm, and continued in the use and occupation of Ackerman until his death in 1828, after which his executors sold and conveyed it to John Kip, who devised the same to his sons, Nicholas J. and Walling J. Kip, and they continued to use it for shipping purposes secure in the belief that they owned it. About the year 1853, Phebe Van Blarcom, one of the heirs of John Van Wagoner, who had died seized of the "Mansion house and curtilage" (or farm), brought suit to recover possession of the dock. The suit was hotly contested, through eminent counsel, and resulted in a victory for the Van Wagoner heirs. But, on appeal, the court of errors set the verdict of the jury aside, on the ground that the heirs failed to show title. Subsequently, however, those in possession of the dock relinquished all claim thereto, thereby recognizing Van Wagoner's claim.

River Drive, as laid in 1812, and as it still exists, ran through the centre of the garden. Upon that portion of the old garden lying between the road and river, now known as Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 River Drive, stood a two-story frame building in which Frederick A. Piaget and Jacob Serven carried on the business of wagon and sleigh making.

Commencing so far back as 1744, this place became one of the greatest inland shipping ports in the State, to which the products of the farms, forests and mines from the upper end of the county and the counties of Morris and Sussex were carted, whence the same were shipped by boat to distant ports. For a century or more, hundreds of men were working in the vicinity of the old house, during which time this place was called Acquackanonk Landing. The latter word applied to a wharf, covering the river front of what is now 2 to 12 Main Avenue, in front of which, along the Avenue, was a two-story frame building for stores, business places and dwellings. Through the centre was a covered drive-way. No. 2 was a general store, where also our post office was first established. Robert Drummond conducted the store at the breaking out of the Revolution. He was a Loyalist, whose time and talents were ever at the disposal of the King, to whose allegiance he remained true, although he had married Jennie Vreeland, daughter of Elias Vreeland, who belonged to the family of one of the pioneer settlers of the place, had engaged in the mining of iron ore, in which he had made money, and was looked upon as one of the richest men hereabouts. His store was the magnet that drew the farmers and workers to discuss the affairs of State and Nation. Drummond was about forty years of age, of sturdy build and attractive face, well informed and fascinating in speech and manner. John Van Wagoner, the owner of the house and farm in question, made frequent visits to Drummond's store, which he had begun when but a lad, and continued almost daily until 1776, when he was about twenty-one years of age. He became greatly attached to Drummond, who exhibited a fondness for the lad, to whom Drummond stood forth as a hero in whom the boy had every confidence. It was not strange, therefore, for the boy to agree not only with the sentiments and beliefs of the older man, but that he should feel and act just as Drummond did, so that when the latter went about the adjoining county to enlist 200 men into a company called the Second Battalion of New Jersey, Loyalists, as a reward for which he was honored by being made Major of the Third Battalion, November 20, 1776, the day before Washington and his army reached this place on their retreat across the State, John Van Wagoner accompanied him, attracted, perhaps, more by the Major's scarlet coat, Russian hat, white knickerbockers, tall boots and spurs, seated upon his white horse, appearing in military majesty to the eyes of the young man, who in all his life never saw anything like it before, than by his arguments. The lad was a plain farmer boy, the limit of whose travels was New York City, then the size of Passaic, and Newark, of some three thousand inhabitants, visits to which he had made several times on the market wagon, whose trips going were made at night, and whose stay in either city was limited to the time it took to dispose of the load, when, after a hasty breakfast





at the market coffee house, the return trip was taken with these men who never took time for observation or pleasure.

Although the owner of this farm, which at that time had little value, John's life had been one of hard work. From April to October, he was up before sunrise, and after the milking was done, he drove the cattle to the pasture lot, bounded by Bloomfield, Gregory, Paulison and Howe Avenues, of the present day. Upon returning, he had breakfast, after which he worked on the farm until it came time to go for the cows, and milk them again, after which a late supper and then to bed. No time for sport. The only thing in that line looked forward to with pleasure was shad fishing with net in the river every spring. A net perhaps 200 feet long, one end of which was held by a man on the shore, would be let out of the stern of a boat as it was rowed across the river, whence in a large circle it would return to the shore with the other end of the net, which would then be drawn in with hundreds of shad. Little time was given to school. John never had time to go in summer. But he did go several quarters in winter, although he never got beyond the three Rs, and that very limitedly. The boy was witty and a good reasoner, acquired from his Irish schoolmasters, James Billington, an Irish Redemptioner, and Dr. Ogle, recently from Ireland, most capable teachers.

On the evening of November 20, 1776, Robert Drummond returned home from New York where, that day, he had received his appointment as Major in the British Army, and for the first time appeared in uniform, much to the astonishment of his friends, who tried to convince him that he was doing wrong in forsaking those who were fighting for a free country and liberty, and predicted that eventually he would lose his vast possession, which would be confiscated. Many think it was his possessions, large and valuable as they were, rather than loyalty to the King, which moved Drummond in his actions. It was his opinion that the fight for independence was on its last legs; that the King and his trained, well equipped, seasoned troops, would win out, so that a person remaining loyal to the King would thereby save his property.

It is but natural to presume that young Van Wagoner was impressed by the discussion, and because of what appeared at least to be the superior education, culture and knowledge of Drummond, he was influenced and guided by the latter, whom he believed to be the better judge of the results of the war. From the Drummond store, that evening, young John went across the road to the old house, got together a few articles, and immediately went over to call on Drummond, who resided in a two-story brick building on the site of the present No. 147 River Drive. What more was said or done there to influence the young man is unknown. The fact is, however, that so far as his friends knew, this was the last seen or heard of John Van Wagoner, who disappeared from sight that night, when Drummond stole away and joined the British army. The presumption was that he determined to follow the man, whom he was ready to worship, and with him joined the British army. Drummond was sent with his force to Virginia, where nearly all his men died of fever, including, as supposed, young Van Wagoner. Drummond continued Major of the Third Battalion of General Skinner's Brigade until 1783, when he became Major of the Second Battalion. He never returned here. At the termination of the war his entire possessions were confiscated to the State, including his handsome residence, now the Speer Chateau property, Main Avenue, and he fled to London, England, where he lived in retirement until his death in Chelsea Hospital, February 3, 1789. He was buried in St. Luke's churchyard. Some of his descendants now live within four miles of the old house.

The first building erected (about 1747), was forty-four feet long, twenty feet deep, and one and one-half stories in height, with a hall six feet in width in the centre, extending from front to rear. The southerly half and hall remain as originally erected. This half had no cellar. The northerly half had a cellar, which was abso-



lutely necessary all the year round to preserve fruits and vegetables in winter, and milk, butter, cream and berries in summer.

The garret, or the greater part, was used for the storage of grain in large quantities. At the present time there may still be seen on the second floor a trap door through which the grain was hoisted. As the harvests increased in quantity, both in grain, vegetables and fruits, the cellar and garret proved inadequate and in 1776 the northerly half of the building was torn down and the present larger building was commenced, but not finished until after the Revolution.

The larger part was divided into four rooms, and the smaller or kitchen part had only one on the first floor. For many years, the garret was one large room. Later, however, and about 1835, as children increased, the larger garret was divided by board partitions into several bedrooms. About this time the grain was transferred to a granary.

The timber used is hard oak. The beams of the first floor are eight by nine inches, and of the second floor, eight by thirteen inches—enough to support a locomotive. The frame work is held together with wooden pins, even to the window frames.

The entire building is seventy feet long, the larger part being thirty-three feet, and the smaller, twenty feet wide. The outer stone walls are two feet thick.

In front of the three fire-places are beautifully carved mantels flanked on each side by cupboards of delicate construction. In many ways, this old house is a splendid example of Dutch architecture of the Eighteenth Century, and should be preserved. Some four years ago, the question of preserving this old house as an historic site was discussed but no action taken then nor since.

#### HISTORIC SITES.

The theatre building adjoining the Y. M. C. A. building, is the exact site upon which stood, during the Revolution, a stone house—one of the finest hereabouts, that had been erected about 1705. It stood facing the south, with the parlor facing the old, or Weasel Road. Between the parlor and sitting room, of the same large dimensions, ran the hall, the whole breadth of the building from south to north. On the easterly end was a kitchen, one and a half stories high, the upper part of which was used by the slaves as sleeping quarters. Bedsteads by, and for, slaves were not used. Instead, the floor was covered with fine meadow hay, upon which the colored folks—men and women, boys and girls—slept.

From the main hall, which was about sixteen feet wide, stairs led to the upper story of the main house. A handsome hand made balusters and rail, with quaint newel posts at the bottom, at the turn in the stairs half way up, and at the top guarded the stair. One half of the second story, the part over the parlor, was finished off into three fairly good sized bed rooms, while the other half of the up-stairs was unfinished, being used for the storage of grain, mostly, and other farm produce. It is well to bear in mind that there was a good sized farm connected with the house, which extended from Madison Street, south to about 150 feet north of our Washington Place, and from the old road easterly to the North Reformed Chapel—a willow tree in the rear of the chapel marks the easterly line. The house was covered with a large peaked, shingle roof, which came down far enough on both sides as to form a roof for the piazzas, which for the entire length of the main building, were built on both the north and south sides. These sides were whitewashed and plastered with lime. And large and generous porches they were, too, well finished, set off by dainty, hand-carved, circular posts, supporting the eaves of the big roof, whose cornices and planchers and facets, were finished with the same hand-carved ornamentations. In the rear of the house and about 200 feet therefrom stood the barns—large, commodious ones capable of accommodating a large number of horses, and





which, during the Revolution, came in good, to shelter first the British cavalry and after that the horses of the cavalry attached to General Heard's brigade. Between the house and the barns stood the smoke house, a stone structure, which was used as official headquarters.

Two large brick chimneys, one at each end, gave an imposing appearance to the house. These chimneys were constructed of brick made in and imported from Holland. Both the parlor and sitting room had large open fire places, which were inviting features of these rooms in cold weather, when good use was made of the one in the sitting room particularly.

At the present time there are no indications upon the ground where the old houses stood, the workmen themselves knew when they struck the old cellar, that they were excavating a filled-in hole of some kind, because of the character of the soil which was less compact and composed of broken stone, pieces of brick, etc. The brick is of the pretty shade of red, common to Holland brick, which are less brittle than American brick, and of a larger size, on all sides. The doors and windows, with their trimmings, were all hand made, and gotten up in very pleasing patterns, some of which are still in use, having been removed from this old house at the time it was torn down, and used in the construction of a house less than two miles from this spot. Surrounding the old house was an orchard composed of pear trees, near the house, and of apple trees farther away.

This house was occupied in 1776 by a lawyer, Benjamin Helme, who had been practicing in the City of New York, but on account of poor health had come here to reside in 1774. During the excitement attending the breaking out of the Revolution, one of the first meetings called to discuss the situation, was held in this house in 1775, and, to the credit of the meeting be it said, it was resolved to stand by the cause of freedom, and throw off the yoke of British oppression. At this meeting, however, were one or two who discouraged any such action. The head of the opposition was Robert Drummond, a merchant of Acquackanonk, who kept a general store in lower Main Avenue, at the old Revolutionary bridge, whose sympathies were with the British, and so intense were these sympathies that in November of the year following he recruited, from among the residents hereabouts, the Second Battalion of New Jersey Loyalists, of which he was made major.

These meetings were continued in this old house frequently thereafter, and at the meeting of July 10, 1776, a resolution was passed petitioning Congress to build four gondolas or row galleys, mounted with cannon to ply the Passaic River. Lawyer Helme remained true to the cause he espoused and, as if to punish him, the British soldiers destroyed all his personal property. Among the list of claims presented to the State for damages done by the British at Acquackanonk is that of Benjamin Helme, who alleges that the British destroyed all his household furniture, law books and several valuable papers and manuscripts of the value of one thousand pounds. None of these claims were paid. On November 26, 1776, the British, while pursuing Washington, who had crossed the old bridge, on lower Main Avenue, on the 21st, stopped at this house and remained there until the 28th. During these two days they took occasion to rob and plunder every house, friend and foe. From Jacob Vreeland, who occupied the house next on the north, corner of Monroe Street, where Post's drug store now is, they stole property, which, in the inventory afterwards presented by him against the State, amounts to \$2,000.

Across the road stood a similar house, which at that time was occupied by Lucas Wessels, a tanner, who had acted as secretary of the meetings above referred to—a warm patriot. He was also plundered on November 27th, to the extent of about \$350, according to the inventory.

During the entire period of the war Acquackanonk was one of the important posts in the State, situated as it was on two important highways; the one, Weasel



Road, or King's Highway, opened communications north and south, while the road through the Notch, now Van Houten Avenue, continued by way of the road from Hackensack, out through the western part of the State, opened communication east and west. And, then, the bridge at this point being the only one this side of Newark, made this place one of strategic interest. In addition to the headquarters of Lord Stirling, established at the bridge, maintained during the entire war, headquarters had, on or about November 10th, 1776, been established in the Helme house, which was known as General Stephen's headquarters. A letter from Major Nathaniel Greene to General Washington, of November 9, 1776, says: "I shall order General Stephen on as far as Acquackanonk at least. That is an important pass. I am fortifying it as fast as possible." An old war map indicates this spot thereon by a lot of figures indicating tents in the rear of the house.

Benjamin Helme was ruined by the war. He became so worried over his losses and the confiscation, as it were of his real estate, that he became insane and remained so during the remainder of the war, when he was removed to Middletown Point, N. J., in the early part of 1777. His wife, Hannah, died there in the summer of that year. He recovered in 1783, when he returned here to live in his old home.

On September 8, 1795, being deeply in debt, he mortgaged the premises to Richard Ludlow. Money, however, was so scarce that he was unable to keep up his interest and was obliged to stand by and see his old home sold by the sheriff to satisfy the mortgage to Ludlow, who sold it to John Brower, who sold it to David Gelston, who sold to Abraham Ackerman in 1805. Ackerman was the prince of merchants for many miles around and was considered the richest man hereabouts. He had come here from Lodi during the Revolution and clerked for Robert Drummond, above referred to. When Drummond went to the war Ackerman succeeded to his business. His store was at the county bridge, in a brick building the exact duplicate of which is still standing upon the original site at this day, and now occupied by the Birch Lumber Company. Ackerman lived over the store until he purchased the Helme place, when he removed thither, and continued to reside there until his death in 1828.

It was not until sixty years thereafter, or 1868, that the property was sold by the late Senator Williams, as special master, by direction of the court of chancery, and bought by the late Edo Kip, who continued to own it until his death a few years ago. The last public appearance of Helme was in a law suit instituted by him against Ackerman, before Cornelius Vreeland, justice of the peace, to recover damages to some personal property. The case was set down for November 15, 1880, but was settled without trial.

When Edo Kip tore the house down in 1870, the building stone was used in the construction of the cellar of the present Kip mansion and in the foundation of the barn and outbuildings, some also were used in the foundation of the North Reformed Chapel.

So passes from view, giving way to modern improvements, another historic spot of ground, upon which have been enacted some of the trying scenes connected not only with the Revolutionary war, but in the promulgation of principles of good government, that stood for so much in the early primitive days of this colony, and which have been tried and not found wanting the last century of the State. Still, although removed from sight, the site itself may be remembered as one well worthy of some monument to mark it in order that its importance may be known by future generations.





## CHAPTER XI.

### EARLY CONDITIONS.

Having now planted our early settlers in their new homes, we will try and draw a picture of the hamlet and its inhabitants. And first, as to the river. We can imagine how, for centuries, this pure, clear stream flowed on in its course between its heavily foliaged banks, from summer to winter, while the rich grass on its meadows and banks, wasted, because there were not enough animals to consume it, and how the wild fruits afforded feasts for squirrel and forest bird, or perished untouched, because no living human beings were there to enjoy them. It might, without romance, be called a retired Paradise without its Ethiopian Emperor to rule over it.

And second, the land with its tillable fields and well stocked woods. For centuries before the coming of the White man, these too, had remained unimproved, with the exception of certain parts cultivated by the Indians, which left acres upon acres of good productive land, ready for the plowman. That it remained untrodden, to any extent, so long, is certainly marvelous, and can only be accounted for by the fact that there were so few people in the country. From 1624, when the Dutch came, until 1678, no one seems to have been attracted by the beauty of the spot. It might be well to take a bird's-eye view of the hamlet before proceeding with the story of developments and progress.

Looking about is seen on the "Point" two houses of the Vreeland brothers, one on the site of the present mill of the Worthen and Aldrich Company, the other upon the spot upon which the mill of Basch stands. On the bank of the Weasel brook stands the home of the other brother. Looking north from these, nothing but woods and fields are seen until in the vicinity of the present corner of Jackson street and Lexington avenue, another dwelling appears belonging to Post; a little beyond to the north, Peterse is erecting a house, while just above to the right, Mr. Van Winkle is seen standing at his kitchen door looking towards the river to the east and contemplating its possibilities, perhaps. As the eye stretches its gaze in the direction of Clifton, there can be faintly seen the residence of Garritse. Our vision in that direction being exhausted, the eye is allowed to look nearer home, until it rests, perhaps, on the dwelling of Van Houten, at the present southwest corner of Howe avenue and Prospect street. From there looking westward nothing is seen to break the expanse of hill and valley, excepting a speck in the distance which, we are told, is Sip's house. Coming back to the river the same expanse of country is unbroken by the habitation of a human being until the house of Van Wagoner is descried at the corner of the present Gregory avenue and River road. The one just below is





Post's, while the next we are told belongs to Speer, at the present railroad bridge. Not far below is the home of another Sip, while just beyond Van Riper and still another Vreeland have erected their homes. Away to the south is the house of a new comer among the patentees—that of one Steinmets. Crossing the river, the only house on the Bergen shore, adjacent to us, is the new house of Van Winkle. Roads there are none. What appears to be a path follows the river north and south, as far as the eye can reach.

Such then is the appearance of the country soon after the date of the patents. A good idea of the State itself may be obtained from the account given of it by Thomas Rudyard, the deputy governor of the twelve proprietors.

He speaks of the superiority of the province over the neighboring provinces, having both fresh and salt meadows which was very valuable as contributing so much for the support of stock in winter. Five or six mills were then being built, and two were already at work, which, when completed, would reduce the price of boards one-half, as well as all other timber for building.

Pork and beef were selling at two cents a pound, fish and fowl were plenty. Wheat sold for four shillings, Indian wheat for two shillings and six pence, per bushel; cider, good and plenty, for one penny a quart; good drink made of water and molasses, about two shillings a barrel, as wholesome as their eight shillings beer in England; good venison, plenty, at eighteen pence per quarter; eggs at three pence per dozen; and all other necessities of life plenty. Vines, walnuts, peaches, strawberries and many other things plenty in the woods. Here is a gallant, plentiful country, and good land.

At this time there was but one town in the entire province that had a settled preacher who followed no other employment, and that was Newark, although in every town there was a meeting house, where public worship was held once a week.

The richest farmers, like those who settled here, had from eight to ten servants, from ten to thirty cows, a number of oxen, and some had so many horses that they did not themselves know the exact number, for they had them scattered through the country and kept no more at home than they required for work; they let them run in the woods in summer and took them only when they wanted to use them.

They had great herds of swine in the woods, also great flocks of sheep; but these they did not allow to run in the woods for fear of wolves.

The Proprietors themselves, in publishing an account of the province set forth among many things that "the country is plentifully supplied with springs, rivulets, rivers and creeks which abound with fish and water fowl." Oak, chestnut, walnut, poplar, ash, fir and cedar timber abound. Soil fertile, producing plentiful crops, also good flax and



hemp which is spun and manufactured into linen cloth. The country is well stocked with wild deer, conies and wild fowl of several sorts, as turkies, pigeons, partridges, plover, quails, swans, geese, ducks in great plenty. It produces a variety of good and delicious fruits, as grapes, plums, mulberries and also apricots, peaches, pears, apples, quinces and watermelons."

Speaking of the settlements in the province, Secretary Nicholls, of New York, says: "On the north of Milford, or Newark river, called Second river, was a large tract belonging to Kingsland and Sanford. Higher up the river, another belonging to Captain Berrie, who divided it; several plantations were soon settled upon it." These plantations included the present Carlton Hill, Wallington and Lodi. He continues: "Still further up the river was an island which belonged to Christopher Hoogland, of Newark (?)". This "island" included part of the city of Passaic.

The habits of the early settlers were of a very social order. This was so because for one thing they felt it a necessity for their own protection and success. Being few, and neighbors not very near, it was but natural that they should seek to cultivate sociability, which was carried on mostly in winter by quilting bees and parties, while the husking bees, and barn raisings, were affairs of no little moment.

The houses built hereabouts were of stone, with projecting roofs. The kitchen was *the* room, where the family lived, moved and had its being. The fire place extended across the entire width of the house and would accommodate immense logs of wood. It was here where the family enjoyed life in the long, cold winters. We can picture the father, with his pipe and mug of cider, toasting his shins before the sparkling logs with the last issue, a week or so old, of the "Newark Centinel of Freedom", while the mother and daughters, improved their time with culinary duties, or spinning. Those who settled here enjoyed good living, equal to those of the best in the land. They had plenty to eat, and did not confine themselves entirely to mush and molasses, but ate heartily of potatoes, buckwheat and corn cakes, beef and eggs, preferring, however, pork and ham, which they had in abundance, not forgetting good, big, fat pies. It is often said that these old people were very plain in their diet; but they were just as anxious to satisfy their taste in the matter of food as people of the present day. The fact is that their food was richer than the general run of food nowadays, and were it not for their hardy exercise and rest, they could not have lived on their diet.

Stoves, of course, were unknown. But they were not missed in the multiplicity of fire places and an abundance of fire wood.

Their beds were ticks, well filled with the softest of feathers, laid upon a straw tick and placed upon bedsteads, the general run of which would compare favorably with the modern make, while the one in the spare room was patterned after that of some royal family, with its tall





posts, capped with a railing from which were suspended in fantastic and tastefully arranged form, tinselled curtains and draperies of the finest texture. All furniture was made by hand. It was customary for the farmers to secure the material for that purpose from their own premises. The logs were cut at a neighboring saw mill, and then allowed to season, when it was worked into articles of furniture by a cabinet maker, who would go on his rounds for that purpose. Tanning, shoe-making, cooperage and distilling went on in much the same fashion. For head gear the farmer fashioned the straw hat for summer and coon-skin caps for winter. The women did all the weaving and prepared all the cloth for garments, which were made up, sometimes, by members of the family, but generally by women who went about tailoring among the different families. Homemade dyeing was also the work of the women. White oak bark gave a brownish red, hickory bark or peach leaves, a good yellow. Maple bark dyed a rich blackish purple; the root of white walnut one shade of brown; the bark and hulls of black walnut, another, very near to the modern seal brown. Green walnuts mixed with sumach berries furnished a good black—in fact the sumach was cultivated very largely here for that purpose. The gas works occupies a large sumach field, which was entirely given to the sumach culture.

The women were as industrious as the men and frequently took their spinning wheels with them in making an afternoon call. In addition to their various work about the house they assisted the men in the fields. No young woman was thought fit for a wife who was not adept in her various employments.

The home comforts which these people enjoyed were very many, and it was not long after coming here before their homesteads were like a paradise. The houses were soon adorned with rosebushes and climbing vines, while at the door yard could be seen the well cultivated garden in which were raised all the vegetable delicacies of the table. Trees, transplanted from the forests soon began to throw their welcome shade about the door yard and over the greensward, while the ever to be seen well, with its swinging pole and the old oaken bucket, furnished a never ending supply of pure spring water. In addition to the well, nearly every house had its spring. The spring attached to the first Michaelson house was located near the river midway between the prolongation of Second and Third streets; that of Jacob John Vreeland, on the river bank, at the prolongation of First street; John Jacob had an excellent one near the foot of Park place. Jacob E. Vreeland's old spring existed by the side of Weasel brook, south of Monroe street, near the prolongation of Parker avenue until 1912.

The Hamlet of Acquackanonk was almost sufficient to itself. The flocks and herds of the farmers provided them with meat; the skins were tanned in the tannery and made into boots and shoes by the village shoemaker. The wool of the sheep was spun and woven by the housewives



on hand looms and made by the village tailor into garments; the candles were tallow dips made from the fat of the cattle that had been slaughtered by the village butcher; the rye and grain raised were ground in the village grist mill, and the houses were built from stones and trees taken from the farm, while any swamp supplied clay for not only mortar but was fashioned into brick and culinary vessels. These local industries vanished with the advent of the railroad. As to religion and education, Rev. Dr. Taylor says:

“They paid early attention to the public worship of God, and when their numbers warranted, they organized and established churches modeled after those of the fatherland. The Calvinistic religion of Holland was thus transplanted to the New Netherlands. The settlers soon sought the aid of the Dutch West India Company in procuring ministers. Their cause on this behalf was furthered by the reverend clergy of the Classis of Amsterdam, and ministers were sent forth by that judicature under advice from the Synod of North Holland.

“They were reluctant to form acquaintance with strangers lest they should be imposed upon. But when such acquaintance was formed and appreciated, it was not easily terminated. Whatever may have been their family broils, when any one of the community was wrongfully involved in trouble, especially in litigation, they were as one man. When such occasions occurred it was no uncommon thing for almost all the men to resort to the county town and support and encourage their assailed neighbor.”

On the other hand, should one make himself obnoxious, he was almost ostracised, for awhile, at least, until the matter was rightly adjusted. In some cases family feuds have continued for several generations, and quite naturally the one to blame was carefully avoided by the injured party's neighbors and friends. Such then was the condition of the city of Passaic and of its first settlers at the time our story opens.

The following verses by Philip Freneau, the New Jersey poet of 1768, are very applicable to old Acquackanonk:

Beside a stream that never yet ran dry,  
There stands a Town, not high advanced in fame;  
Tho' few its buildings rais'd to please the eye,  
Still this proud title it may fairly claim:  
A tavern (its first requisite) is there,  
A mill, a blacksmith's shop, a place of prayer.

Nay, more—a little market-house is seen,  
And iron hooks, where beef was never hung,  
Nor pork, nor bacon, poultry, fat or lean,  
Pig's head, or sausage link, or bullock's tongue.  
Look when you will, you see the vacant bench.  
No butcher seated there, no country wench.

Great aims were his, who first contriv'd this town;  
A market he would have—but, humbled now,  
Sighing, we see its fabrick mouldering down,  
That only serves, at night, to pen the cow;





And hence, by way of jest, it may be said,  
That beef is there, tho' beef that's never dead.

Three times a week, by nimble geldings drawn  
A stage arrives; but scarcely deigns to stop,  
Unless the driver, far in liquor gone,  
Has made some business for the blacksmith shop;  
Then comes the printer's harvest time of news,  
Welcome alike for Christians, Turks or Jews.

Where are they now—the village asks with grief,  
What were their toils, their conquests, or their gains?—  
Perhaps they near some State-House beg relief,  
Perhaps they sleep on the old church plains:  
Doomed not to live, their country to reproach  
For seven years pay transferred to Mammon's coach.

Possessing all these features and advantages, is it any wonder then, that Acquackanonk was an important centre? A centre it truly was, as from it in all directions there reached out arteries of travel by land and water, commencing many miles up in the country which converged at this point, making it, as it really was, the then metropolis of this part of northern New Jersey. Could she but speak, old Acquackanonk would have an interesting tale to tell of the early scenes and incidents that go far toward making the history of not only this part, but of the entire State of New Jersey, identified as she closely and intimately was with the development of the State. And we who call ourselves citizens of old Acquackanonk, can lay claim to the fact that it was by her material help and encouragement in all that tends to lay the foundation of statehood, that the State is what it is today, as, within her borders were held those meetings at which questions concerning the welfare of the Union, were considered and her opinion given with no uncertain sound.

We feel called upon to speak of this in this manner, because we desire it understood that old Acquackanonk is entitled to some share in the pride of our glorious Union.

For nearly one hundred years after the first settlement by the patentees, the hamlet of Acquackanonk commenced to grow and continued its slow growth in the even tenor of its way; but slow as it was, it outstripped all its rivals, if any it had, as a business centre.

One of the first things found necessary to do was to lay out roads to accommodate most of all the business that centred here. For that purpose several roads were opened to the public, which are still in existence, and which are more particularly spoken of in this work under the chapter of Roads. Over these roads were hauled the timber, lumber, hoop poles, barrel staves, iron and other ores, together with grain, hay and general farm produce. The oldest inhabitant has spoken of the time when long lines of wagons, loaded with their wares might be seen daily coming to the "Landing," as this place was then known, where boats took them to New York and other ports.

Previous to the year 1707, there were no regularly laid out roads here, or in this county or adjacent to this place in Bergen county. In





that year, however, the first road was laid out and opened from Newark through Passaic to Paterson, which accommodated the travel north and south, and afforded a highway for business from the country above Paterson, Pompton and on to Sussex county. It soon became apparent that a road or roads should be laid in Bergen county converging at this place. And so it came about that in a short time two roads were simultaneously laid in that county, both of which converged at a point on the east shore of the Passaic river, at (what, of recent years has been known as,) Kip's coal dock near the present New York plank road. One of these roads ran easterly in a straight course to meet the present road in front of the Wallington town hall, and thence to Hackensack and English Neighborhood; the other ran south along the river to Schuylers, opposite Belleville. These two roads accommodated the business in their localities. The next road to be laid was the Notch road (Van Houten avenue), which seems to have been the most important of all, and the one over which the great bulk of the business passed from the iron mines of Morris county, and also from her woods and fields. Each road seems to have been laid for a special purpose. The first named road was used mostly as a highway for travelling purposes, and, in fact, was the only one of the four that was called the "Kings Highway," and from the earliest times, was, indeed, the main road for travel from the south to the great north and northwest country, and was also the only stage coach road of the four. The two Bergen county roads were used mostly by the farmers, in carting their produce here to be shipped abroad, while the Notch road was mostly a freight road. There were no other roads here then, nor, of course, any railroads.



## CHAPTER XII.

### DISTRICT SCHOOL AND ACADEMIES.

The nucleus of the present system of public schools in our city may readily be traced back to about the year 1693, and was co-ordinate with the establishment of the Reformed Dutch Church at Acquackanonk.

The first Dutch settlers were as careful about the secular as they were of the religious education of the young, so that the early history of this church is also the history of the school. It was the custom in those early days for the minister to act also as schoolmaster, in the simple rudiments of studies. Some congregations were able to employ an assistant to the minister, who was known as the "voorliser," whose duties were, on Sundays, to lead the singing, read the Scriptures, give out the notices and catechise the children in religious doctrines.

The first settled minister of the old Dutch Reformed Church here was Guillaume Bertholf, who at first was the "voorliser" in the churches of Hackensack and Acquackanonk, in which capacity he served until 1693, when the Classis granted the request of both churches to have him as their minister, and he was given a "Classical license to serve as preacher, Sheperd and Teacher over Acquiggenock and Ackinsack." He continued in service until his death in 1724. This man was the first school teacher at Acquackanonk, where he resided. His place of residence is not known, but is presumed to have been upon the spot where now may be seen the ruins of the old parsonage, or Washington's headquarters, a little to the left, and in front of the old church, which, in those days, was owned by the church.

The first school was held within the primitive church. Just when the first church building was erected cannot be stated with certainty, but is presumed to have been between 1686 and 1693, part of which period the church was under the ministry of Rev. Petrus Tasschemacher, who, however, served at irregular intervals only, having a settled charge at Schenectady, where he was massacred by the Indians in 1690.

While, no doubt, Bertholf had a house, it is not likely that it was large enough to accommodate a school, however small the school might be. The church building in which the first school was held stood upon the site of the present church, to which reference is made on the county records as early as 1692, so that it must have been erected previous to 1692. While we have no picture of this primitive structure, an artist has reproduced it from description furnished by the late Edo Sip and here shown. Two small openings on each of the longer sides furnished with shutters, serve as windows, while the floor is bare earth, trodden down hard and smooth. Slabs from trees form the benches, while an upright post set in the ground with a small piece of slab laid





upon the top of it, answers for the master's desk during week days, and the minister's pulpit on Sundays. Books for the scholars are an unknown quantity. The master is teacher and book combined. As a rule the scholars are of tender years—barely over twelve. The services of those over that age are required at home to work on the farm, where so much is to be done.

The church seems to have had charge of the education of the youth only until 1693, up to which time there was no law of the Province providing public schools, and it was for this reason that the church had taken hold of the matter as the only means of furnishing education. In the year referred to the following act was passed, which is the first law of the State for establishing public schools:

An Act for establishing School Masters within this Province.

Whereas, the cultivating of learning and good manners tends greatly to the good and benefit of mankind, which hath hitherto been much neglected within this Province;

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Deputies in General Assembly now met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the inhabitants of any town within this Province shall and may, by warrant from a justice of the peace of that county, when they think fit and convenient, meet together and make choice of three or more men of the said town, to make a rate for the salary and maintaining of a schoolmaster within the said town, for so long a time as they think fit: and the consent and agreement of the major part of the inhabitants of the said town shall bind and oblige the remaining part of the inhabitants of the said town to satisfy and pay their share and proportion of the said rate; and in case of refusal or non-payment distress to be made upon the goods and chattels of such person or persons so refusing or not paying, by the constable of said town, by virtue of a warrant from a justice of the peace of that county; and the distress so taken to be sold at publick vendue, and the overplus, if any there be, after payment of the said rate and charges, to be returned to the owner.

By this law the first system of public school tax was inaugurated. After the passage of this act the school was separated from the control and shelter of the church, and for the first time began business on a secular basis. As the minister, Gulliam Bertholf had charge of the school while under the control of the church, it was but natural that he should have been selected as the first teacher of the new school, and so it came about that Guilliam, or William Bertholf was the first schoolmaster, or teacher of, in and to the first school in what is now the City of Passaic. Men capable of teaching were very scarce at that early day, and it may be taken for granted that the task of selecting a schoolmaster was not a very difficult one, whose salary was fixed by the three trustees chosen at a town meeting to "make a rate for the salary and maintaining of a schoolmaster." Mr. Bertholf felt the honor conferred upon him, and took occasion to speak of himself with a certain sense of pride, no doubt, as "schoolmaster," for we find, by a paper in his own handwriting, bearing date April 10, 1693, that he describes himself as



“schoolmaster and authorized writer, residing at the village of Acquigenonk.”

The early schoolmaster, next to the church dominie, was the most respected, and able and the most important man in the community. He not only taught school, but assisted in the church service, giving out notices, leading the singing with a tuning fork, keeping unruly boys quiet in the boys' gallery, taking up the collection and acting as treasurer. He was sexton and undertaker, going about among families announcing the dates of funerals. He rang the church and school bell, being also janitor. He was the public scrivener and lawyer, able to prepare many legal documents such as contracts, deeds and testaments, and often acted as advocate before a Justice of the Peace, and auctioneer, and, usually took an active part in politics.

Schoolmasters were advertised for:

This is to give notice, That the subscribers hereof, do want a schoolmaster, and choose to have a single man. Such person applying, qualified for the said service, may expect good wages and good treatment by us. Nov. 1759.

A single person with a recommendation, capable of teaching Children to read, write and cypher is wanted here, where he'll meet with suitable encouragement. July, 1758.

We desire, that if any single man has a mind to come here to keep school he may apply to us. Dec., 1761.

Notice is Hereby Given that a schoolmaster is wanted, one that can come well recommended may meet with good encouragement. Signed by myself and in behalf of my neighbors.

As the first settlers were Hollanders, the Dutch language was used in the school. At this late day, it is impossible to ascertain what the course of study embraced, how long the school term was, what salary was paid, or the bounds of the district; all which, no doubt, would prove interesting reading. And yet some of these things may be answered by the imagination.

The course of study included, no doubt, no more than the three R's, studied none too thoroughly. No school was held from May 1st to September 1st, each year, enabling even the young scholars to assist on the farm; the salary was small enough, we may be sure. During December, January and February, when all farm work was finished, the older boys and girls,—some twenty-five and even thirty years of age—were able to attend, and were not ashamed to be found among the very young. Unlike graded schools of the present day, Schoolmaster Bertholf taught the little ones their a, b, c's, and the older ones the higher branches of reading, writing, arithmetic and classics, all in one room, as continued to be the case in that school until its demolition about 1870. The district is presumed to have included a radius of at least five miles. This was the first school district in what is now Passaic county, and included a portion of Bergen county as well.





The first school building was erected on land owned by the church, and about one hundred and fifty feet northerly therefrom. This site was occupied by the school building until the last one was taken down in 1870, never to be replaced. It seems that the law of 1693 did not give the trustees power to appoint a schoolmaster, or to select the place for the school. Their power was simply to provide the salary. To remedy this, the following act was passed in 1695:

AN ACT FOR REGULATING OF SCHOOLS.

Whereas, there was an act made Anno Domini, 1693, for the establishing of schools, in each respective town in this Province, and by experience it is found inconvenient, by reason of the distance of the neighborhood, the said act directing no suitable way whereby all the inhabitants may have the benefit thereof;

Be it enacted therefore by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Assembly, now met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that three men be chosen yearly and every year in each respective town in this Province, to appoint and agree with a schoolmaster, and the three men so chosen shall have power to nominate and appoint the most convenient place or places where the school shall be kept from time to time, that as near as may be, the whole inhabitants may have the benefit thereof.

By virtue of this act the trustees were empowered to designate places where schools should be held. It is well to bear in mind that all parts of the country were not as fortunate as old Acquackanonk in being able to have their own school building, but were obliged to hold school at various houses in localities selected by the trustees. Old Acquackanonk being more fortunate in this respect, was looked upon as the educational center for miles around. The school was from the first considered a good one, and, in fact, kept in the van of the schools of the State. It soon acquired the title of Academy, which it retained for many years. At one time there was an attempt made to establish other schools for younger children, and to make this one an Academy in the true sense of that word. For a few years this worked very well, but subsequently was abandoned. Of the old academy a New Jersey poet wrote, in 1794:

Subjected to despotic sway,  
Compelled all mandates to obey,  
Once in this dome I humbly bowed,  
A member of the murmuring crowd,  
Where Pedro Blanco held his reign,  
The tyrant of a small domain.  
By him a numerous herd controlled  
The smart, the stupid and the bold,  
Essay'd some little share to gain,  
Of the vast treasures of his brain—  
Some learned the Latin, some the Greek,  
And some in flowery style to speak—  
Some writ their themes, while others read  
And some with Euclid stuff'd the head—  
Some toiled in verse and some in prose  
And some in logic sought repose—  
Some learned to cypher, some to draw,  
And some began to study law.





The course of studies, as outlined by the poet, is not overstated, for in this school of one room presided over by one teacher, about everything a youth could study was taught. Of many of the teachers who taught in this old school, we have no knowledge. Mr. Bertholf probably taught until his death in 1724. It is barely possible that some of the ministers succeeding him may have also acted as schoolmasters for a while, but of this we have no knowledge.

The earliest schoolmaster, as such, after Mr. Bertholf, which the writer has been able to discover, was Mr. B. N. Sheridan, who taught here from 1805 to 1810. He was a thorough scholar, even in the higher branches, a most excellent teacher, and a good Christian man. John Ludlow and Gabriel Ludlow, who lived in the house on the River Drive, just below the Erie Railroad arch, now known as the Pagoda, were his pupils, and received excellent education. Gabriel became a successful minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and was remarkable in remaining fifty-seven years over one church—Neshanic.

John Ludlow became the most prominent minister of the Reformed Dutch Church in the country. He was born at Acquackanonk December 13, 1793, studied at the old Academy here until 1809, graduated at Union College in 1814, studied theology at New Brunswick, was licensed to preach in 1817, and in 1818 became pastor of the First Reformed Dutch Church at that place. In 1819 he was elected professor in the Theological Seminary, whence in 1822 he removed to Albany. In 1834 he became provost of the University of Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1852, when he was elected professor of ecclesiastical history, church government and pastoral theology, which he filled with distinguished ability till his death, September 8, 1857. This shows the foundation laid by Sheridan, who left this old school and went up to the Weasel school, where he taught until his death. The "Newark Sentinel" of June 30, 1811, thus speaks of his school: "On Saturday last a school exhibition was held in Mr. B. N. Sheridan's school in the neighborhood of Weazel, near Paterson; and it is but due justice to Mr. Sheridan (considering the short period of tuition) to say that his pupils exceeded the most sanguine expectations of their parents as well as the numerous audience who had the pleasure of being present at the exhibition."

Sheridan was buried within ten feet of the old school at Acquackanonk in compliance with his request to be laid beside his "first love," which was then standing. A large number attended his funeral, including the scholars of that old school, who had a holiday for the purpose of paying respects to the old teacher. No teacher of that old school was more honored. It is said that his old pupil, John Ludlow, furnished his epitaph, which read:



Here lies an honest man at rest,  
As ever God in his image blest.  
A friend of man, a friend of truth;  
A friend of age, a guide of youth.  
If there's another world, he lives in bliss,  
If there is none, he made the best of this.

From 1810 to 1820 Abel Merchant taught the old school. He was a bachelor, and boarded with a family on River Drive, in a house still standing, the lower floor of which was then used as a blacksmith shop. He, too, went from here to the Weasel school.

John Nichols came here from the Notch about 1813; purchased a house (No. 80) River drive, where he lived. He had been teacher of the Notch school several years previous to coming here, and gave that up to enter the store of Abram Ackerman, on lower River Drive, where he remained about three years, when he gave that up and resumed teaching by opening a school in the Dr. Miller house, on the east side of the River Road, about 500 feet south of Brook avenue, where he taught about four years. He lived in the house still standing and numbered 80 River Drive, where his wife kept a small notion store. By reason of an accident to his legs, he was obliged to go on crutches, and being very poor he was obliged to hobble daily on crutches to and from his home to his school, and was an object of pity. But for all his drawbacks, he was cheerful, and ready with a kind word for all. He was beloved by his scholars, all of whom were quite young. One of them, who died recently very aged, told the writer that Mr. Nichols had been considerable of a sailor in his younger days, and one of the stories he related to the youngsters at the lunch hour was that the table and its dishes on his ship was so constructed that the careening of the boat over on her side never interfered with those on board sitting at the table and eating as if the ship were standing perfectly level. This school never paid, and was abandoned by Nichols, who then, in 1820, took charge of the school here, which he taught until about 1824.

Dr. Lambert J. M. Sythoff taught for about one year; previous to this he had had a private school at his residence, which stood on the ground where the present Pennington avenue is laid, fronting on Main avenue, which had not proved a success financially. He was a practising physician here at the time he taught school. About 1826 he left for Paterson where he opened a private school. This proving a failure caused him to move to Pompton, in 1828, where he married Mary, the wife of Major Post. With his wife's patrimony he was able to give up teaching, and thereafter devoted his entire time to the practise of medicine, in which he became very successful and made money. He was greatly beloved by the entire community, who, upon his death, November 13, 1845, in his fifty-second year, erected over his grave, in the Pompton Church grave yard, a large stone monument sixteen feet high





and three feet square at the base, upon which is the following inscription:

A grateful community, in token of affectionate esteem have caused this monument to be erected in appreciation of his many virtues.

The next teacher in order probably was Dr. William Colfax, an uncle of Vice-president Colfax, and son of William Colfax, commander of Washington's Life-Guards, during the Revolution. He taught here from about 1826 to 1831, and like Dr. Sythoff, practised medicine and taught school at the same time. He left here and went to Pompton, where he had come from to this place, in 1821. Like his predecessor, he is better remembered as a physician than as a teacher.

Following these, came James Doremus, Samuel F. Colt, Isaac Serven, who had married Dr. Scudder's daughter. He resided at the present corner of Main and Crooks avenues, Paterson, and many times would walk home to dinner. The distance being so great that whenever he did so, the scholars counted on an extra hour for dinner. Previous to coming here he had a school in the basement of the Reformed Church, Paterson.

William Thompson, one of the teachers about this time (in the thirties), unfortunately was a drinking man, with whom the boys had considerable sport, hiding his whiskey bottle, and putting bent pins on his chair, when he was seen to be about half drunk. Sometimes he would become so drunk as to be unfitted to teach, and often it became necessary to call in William Brown, who conducted a private school nearly opposite. Brown finally became the regular teacher, and served with credit, but for only a short time.

A Mr. Woodruff and ——— Johnson filled in the time until about 1840, when Charles O. Crane became the regular teacher. It is said that Johnson left in disgust because of the tricks played upon him by the boys; the last trick was to cover his seat with a thin layer of shoemaker's wax. It was on a Friday afternoon, and Brown was dressed in his best, as he was going off to spend Sunday. Being nearsighted he did not discover the wax, which was of the color of the chair. The seat of his trousers was ruined. Another trick was to stick a pin in the toe of the shoe of a mischievous boy, who would stick the teacher with it whenever the teacher would come near him. Of course, the guilty boy was sooner or later discovered, but as Brown was not athlete enough to punish him, he soon lost control and was obliged to give up.

In the person of Mr. Crane, the boys found their match, and it was not long before the tricks were pretty thoroughly thrashed out of them, much to the relief of the trustees, the gratification of the teacher, but to the disgust of the boys.

Altogether a different man was George D. Moore, who followed Crane. Moore was a graduate of Union College, where he had pre-



pared for the ministry. He became a great favorite with all the scholars, and retained their esteem during the two years he taught here.

James C. Johnson, who was also chorister of the old Dutch Reformed Church, was known as a hard teacher. The boy who dared to play him a trick was glad to get off with his life. He didn't repeat the trick. Johnson left Passaic for New York, where he engaged in real estate and insurance until his death.

James Treadwell, a young man from New York, taught about one year, when he returned home.

One of the best known teachers of this old school was Malenethon S. Wickware, who also kept a general store, and dealt in cord wood and timber. His odd moments in summer time were spent on his truck farm, whereon he raised large quantities of onions. His garden was a large field on River Drive, opposite the Orphan Asylum. He was a good teacher, and well liked. Being so industrious, one would suppose that he made money. But he didn't. Not making a success of either teaching, farming or mercantile pursuits, he went to New York where he opened a general store at 156 West street, in which he also failed, and sad to relate, he died, 'tis said, a very poor man. He had rough and tumble fights with his scholars, too. The following incident was related to the writer by the late Manning M. Cleveland—a pupil of Wickware:

It was customary for the teacher, in the afternoons, to select a scholar to act as monitor on the floor, and watch the scholars study, while the teacher took a short nap. One afternoon Cleveland was selected monitor. He refused and told the teacher his father had forbidden him to do so. For this refusal the teacher set about to whip him, whereupon a number of the larger boys ran to his assistance, and succeeded in throwing Mr. Wickware to the floor, and while held there, a bottle of ink was poured over his face. In this plight the boys left him and ran out of school. The matter was brought to the attention of the trustees, who stood out for the boys and censured the teacher, who left in disgust.

When the next teacher, George F. Batchelder, applied for the position, the trustees looked upon a small, thin, weakly-looking young man, and told him frankly that he would not do because he could not manage the boys, who were tough, bold and strong, and might injure him mortally in a combat, and besides, the boys were very unruly and made a business of playing tricks upon and thrashing the teacher, and that a strong man was needed to control them. In reply, he meekly asked to be taken on trial, which was agreed to. Of course, the action of the trustees became noised around, and the older boys chuckled when they thought of the fun they would have with the little teacher. It so happened the first day that he was in the act of whipping one of the boys when forthwith from their seats rushed four of his companions to his rescue. The teacher pretended not to see them until the first rescuer got within range of his fist, when, quick as a flash and without warning,





he struck out a right hander, which landed with crushing effect on the first young man's nose, and sent him over backwards on the floor. This was followed by one of the same kind on the cheek of the second boy, who retreated in short order, while the hard toe of the teacher's right boot left its impression on the stern of the third. In a moment he had grabbed the fourth lad by the neck and sent him sprawling on the floor. Then the teacher, standing with his arms folded and turning all around as he spoke, said, "Come on, I am ready for more." No more venturing forth, he told the lad who was the cause of the disturbance that he (the teacher) had started out to whip him, and was going to do it if he had to whip the whole school. It is needless, perhaps, to add that the boy received the whipping, and that the teacher was engaged by the trustees, who believed him able to manage the boys. He remained here several years, and boarded with William L. Andruss, who kept hotel opposite the school. His health failing, he gave up teaching about 1853, and followed surveying. In 1854 he made and published from actual surveys a map of Passaic, a most thorough and accurate work, which sold so well that he was obliged to print a second edition of one hundred copies. Immediately after this he went to Leadville, where he remained several years.

Following Batchelder, came ——— Palmer, a married man, who resided in Dundee in a small house which stood on the river bank near the present Second street. He did not give satisfaction and taught only one year.

The next teacher was John G. Williams, brother to (afterwards) State Senator Williams, who was regarded as an excellent teacher and a strict disciplinarian. He had a commanding appearance, which not only secured him the respect, but also the love of his pupils, among whom he made many friends.

The last teacher of the old school, which we have endeavored to trace back two hundred years, was Andrew Wanamaker Andrew Henion, who taught there from 1861 until the school was abandoned in 1870. Mr. Henion, who died January 31, 1911, an honored citizen of Passaic, was born at Ramseys, Bergen county, February 4, 1822. He was a descendent of Richard Wanamaker, who came from Holland about the time of the famous battle of the Boyne, during the reign of William and Mary, and settled at Mahwah, where he purchased a square mile of land.

This old school was closed finally and forever on the last Friday in July, 1870, and the last public meeting—for the election of a trustee—was held Monday evening, September 5, 1870. The meeting was one of the largest and most spirited of its kind ever convened there. The meeting was called to elect a trustee in the stead of Henry P. Simmons, whose term had expired. Edo Kip was made chairman, and A. W. A. Hennion, secretary. Dr. B. B. Ayerigg and George W. Demarest were





placed in nomination. Seventy-nine votes were polled, of which Demarest received fifty-seven and Ayerigg twenty-two. The minutes of that old meeting say: "A motion was made to retain the old school building for the use of the colored children of the District; after some remarks to the effect that such a scheme was impracticable, and that the colored children had as good right to occupy the new school building as any children in the District, the motion was tabled and meeting adjourned."

At one time the building was two stories, the first story being used as District school and the second as Academy. This was the birth place, and for years the home of Nassau Hall Academy, a noted institution of learning many years ago, presided over by men highly educated, who prepared boys for college, and while not subservient to any particular college, it was intended to be a feeder for Princeton.

Acquaackanonk Landing, as Passaic was then known, was a thriving town in the early days, and all activities centred here, from and to which came products and people from as far away as New York State, hence the advantage of locating here the most advanced seat of learning in the northern part of the State.

Although Newark boasted an Academy the course of studies did not include so many of the higher branches and languages as Nassau Hall Academy, hence many young men residing near Newark preferred to come here. They came on horseback as also did those from the north. There were others whose homes were so far away as to compel them to board here. One of the boarding houses stood at the northerly corner of Pennington and Main avenues of today.

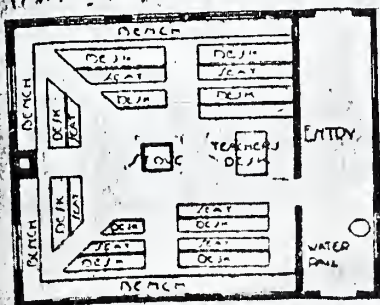
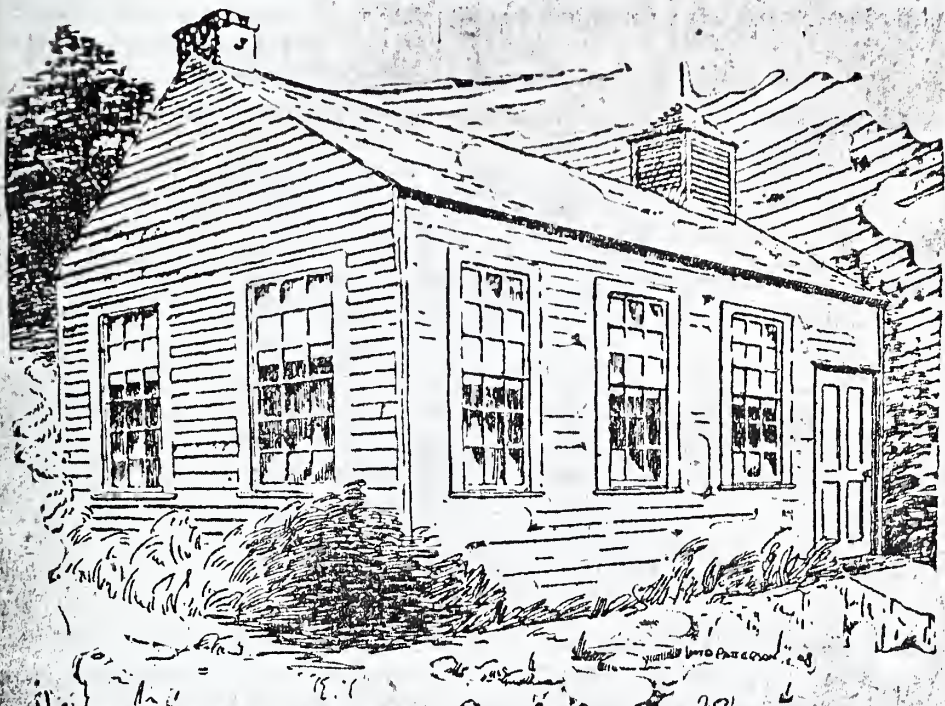
It is a matter of history that after the split in the Synod of the Presbyterian church in 1741, there came into existence the Old Side constituting the Synod of Philadelphia, and the New Side, the Synod of New York. Soon after the separation, the Synod of New York took measures to provide for the education of its future ministers which resulted in establishing the College of New Jersey in 1746 which in 1755 became Nassau Hall—now Princeton College. In the meanwhile the Old Side maintained academies in New London, Newark, Delaware, and also the academy and college at Philadelphia. Rivalry was keen and each side fought for the lead which for several years was held by the Old Side, to attain which the New Side, thinking that there might be magic in a name, became interested in establishing preparatory schools in this and adjoining States.

The one here was organized by Dr. Jacob Arrants, with the assistance, it is said, of the Rev. David Marinus, pastor, at the time, of the Reformed Church, which led to his dismissal from the church of his faith shortly thereafter.

The academy was of wood, twenty-five feet by forty feet, two stories high, with cupola, and bell. The furnishings consisted of a wood stove,



# THE OLD DISTRICT SCHOOL WHICH STOOD NEARLY TWO CENTURIES



FLOOR PLAN

## OLD DISTRICT SCHOOL AT ACOUACKANONK

1684 - 1870

THIS SKETCH WAS MADE FROM DRAW-  
INGS BY MR. W. W. KOTT OF RAJING N. J.  
WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL FIVE YEARS

ALL





desk and chair for the teacher, and high wooden desks ranged around three sides of the room before which the boys sat on benches fastened to the floor. A large terrestrial globe was upon the teacher's desk, while a black board stood behind.

There were no girl pupils. They attended the Young Ladies' Academy which stood on the present Prospect street near Park place.

From old Nassau Hall Academy went forth youth who became famous lawyers, judges, ministers and physicians. Although the two Synods became united in 1758, the old academy continued business for fifty years thereafter.

The site will have a marker to identify it in Armory Park.

The old school building was torn down in 1871, and of it now—

All is desert, all is done  
 Many Tutors to the shades are gone,  
 And all their pupils led astray,  
 Have each found out a different way.  
 Some are in chains of wedlock bound,  
 And some are lost and some are drowned,  
 Some advanced to posts and places  
 And some in pulpits screw their faces;  
 Some at the bar a living gain,  
 Perplexing what they should explain.  
 To soldiers turned a nobler band,  
 Repelled the invaders of the land;  
 Some to the arts of Physic bred,  
 Despatch their patients to the dead;  
 Some plough the land and some the sea  
 And some are slaves and some are free;  
 Some court the great and some the Muse,  
 And some subsist by mending shoes—  
 While others—but so vast the throng,  
 The cobblers shall conclude my song.

The new school (Public School No. 1, known as the Jefferson School), was dedicated by special service held therein on Friday evening, September 30, 1870, at which the opening prayer was made by Rev. J. Paschal Strong, then the pastor of the North Reformed Church; report of the trustees read by their secretary, Edo Kip; remarks made by the new principal, Professor Samuel W. Rice, and short addresses given by the Rev. Johnson of the Baptist Church, and Rev. Leavens of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. John A. Monroe. The school was opened for business October 3, 1870.

#### ACQUACKANONK ACADEMY.

In addition to the old village district school, the hamlet of Acquackanonk, in keeping with her reputation as a prominent seat of learning, had several private schools within her borders, conspicuous among them being the Acquackanonk Academy, which was a regularly incorporated institution as appears by the following Certificate of Incorporation, duly recorded:



To all to whom these presents may come.

This is to certify that at a meeting of the members of the Association for the Promotion of Useful Literature, holden at the house of Richard Van Houten, in the township of Acquackanonk, on the fifteenth day of December, 1802, public notice having been given ten days previous to said meeting by written notice being set up in three of the most public places in the vicinity, declaring the object of the proposed meeting, viz.: To choose five trustees to be invested with power to represent said Association in all cases when their interest may be concerned, and instructed to pursue the legal measures to become a corporate body.

Now, be it known that we, the subscribers have been duly elected Trustees of the Acquackanonk Academy, and have taken to ourselves the name of "The Trustees of the Acquackanonk Academy."

Dated May 1, 1806.

HENRY SCHOONMAKER, President.

HALMAGH VAN WINKLE

ADRIAN M. POST

GARRET VAN RIPER

JOHN R. LUDLOW.

The trustees purchased a plot of land (now Nos. 79, 81 Prospect street) on the "old road," and erected thereon a school building where, for about three-quarters of a century, school was held, until abandoned about 1876. During the last score years of its existence it was devoted to girls, and became well known as the "Young Ladies' Seminary." When Mr. Paulison purchased the property in the sixties, he was put to a great expense and trouble in securing a good title. It seems that the trustees took title, not in the name of the Association, but in their individual names, and upon their deaths the property descended to their heirs or devisees, from all of whom it was necessary to obtain deeds. The old building was removed a few years since to No. 17 Academy street (a very appropriate name, by the way), where it was remodelled, and is now used as a dwelling house.

#### HOWE'S ACADEMY.

This school building was erected by the late Dr. John M. Howe about 1859, primarily for the education of his own children, for whom he provided the teacher, while a select number of children from other families were admitted to the school, upon payment of the prescribed fee. The school was an excellent one, and took a high rank among educational institutions, and was favorably spoken of by those who were qualified to judge. It was abandoned about 1870. The old cement building stood until 1919 at the corner of Prospect and Academy streets. The last named street derived its name from this academy.

For several years the hall was used for secular and religious purposes. The Presbyterians occupied it for some time after their organization. The building is now used as a dwelling.

In addition to the three schools above described there were also a



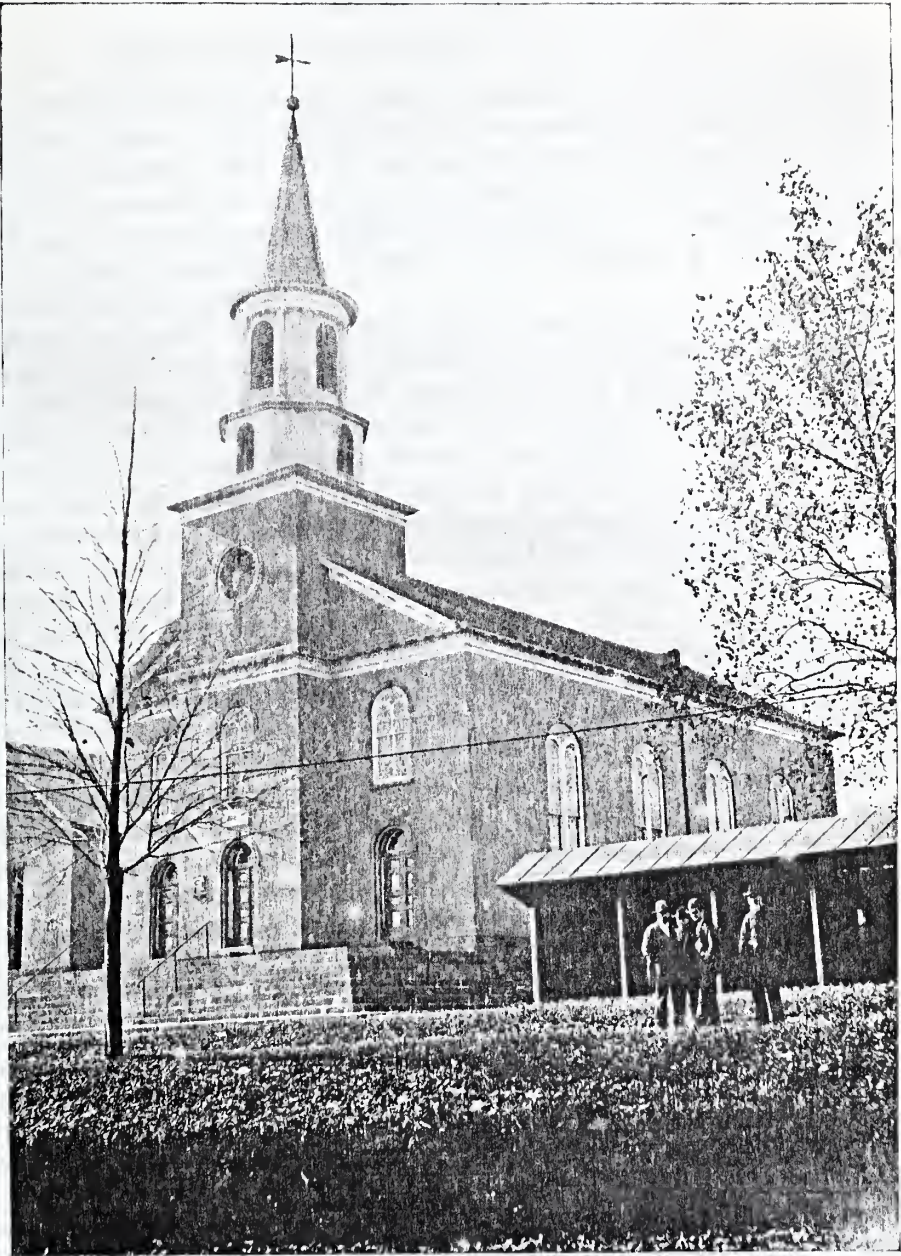
number of private schools held at the abode, or residences, of the teachers, but they attained no prominence.

It was a common thing to have the minister give private lessons to one or more scholars in the higher branches, particularly in Latin or Greek, whereby an ambitious boy prepared for college at little or no expense.

From what has been said of her schools old Acquackanonk may well be proud of the facilities she has always afforded those desirous of an education.







"OLD FIRST" REFORMED CHURCH



### CHAPTER XIII.

#### HISTORY OF OLD FIRST GRAVEYARD.

As is well known, the Indians were in possession and the real owners of all land in this vicinity when the same was settled by the Hollanders, who first came here about 1678—two hundred and forty years ago. The legal title, however, was vested in the Board of Lord's Proprietors of East Jersey. In order to do justice to the Indians, no purchaser could obtain a patent from this board until he had obtained a deed from or consent of the Indians.

These Hollanders entered into negotiations with the Indians, at the headquarters of the tribe, then located about the present corner of Sixth and Passaic streets, which resulted in the purchase of a tract designated by the Board of Proprietors as the Patent of Acquackanonk.

That part of Acquackanonk Patent, comprising the land between Monroe street and the City of Paterson, was also laid out into farm tracts but running in another course from the Passaic river, viz.: south 64 degrees west until their rear butted and bounded against the side of the Van Wagoner farm, which was the most northerly of the first mentioned series of fourteen farms:

This mode of laying out the two sets of farms in two different directions left a gore or triangle between them, which was dedicated to the Dutch Church, now the First Reformed. The base of the triangle was on the Passaic River from the County Bridge on the south to near the foot of Park place on the north, the south line running north forty-eight degrees west, the north line running south sixty-four degrees west brought the point where they met at a grey rock near the corner of River and Prospect streets. Inside of this triangle was the church property, except about six acres that was already disposed of and in possession of one of the Machielsons above mentioned.

Upon this triangle a church and school house were erected, presumably about 1690, and a parsonage in 1713. It was the intention to cultivate the remaining land for the support of the minister. They were a hard working people, these Hollanders, whose industry is reflected in the erecting so quickly everything necessary for their spiritual comfort. For them all, these were busy years, when each man was erecting his dwelling and barns with materials from his own fields and woods, fencing in his acres and preparing for, and gathering in, his harvests. And yet, busy as they were, they did not forget their church, all services of which they attended regularly. To many this was no small matter because of the great distance they had to travel, some with ox teams over ground that could not be called a road, and in all sorts of weather, coming from as far away as beyond Pompton and Montville.





Those were days before churches were heated, and on very cold days, it was the custom for the women and girls coming from a long distance to go to the parsonage with their foot-stoves, in which they would put pieces of live charcoal to keep their feet warm while at service. Yellis Mandeville and wife travelled in this way for twenty years from Towaco. No man was ever known to use a foot-stove, which would have marked him with effeminacy.

Everyone and everything proceeded according to plan until the first death in their number occurred, and the necessity of a graveyard was manifested. After discussion, it was decided to preserve the church land for the minister's use, and acquire additional land for a graveyard, whereupon negotiations were entered into with Hermanus Garritse-Van Wagoner, of whom one acre was purchased adjoining the church on the southwest. This became the first graveyard. The church continued to prosper and increase in numbers, as likewise did the minister's families.

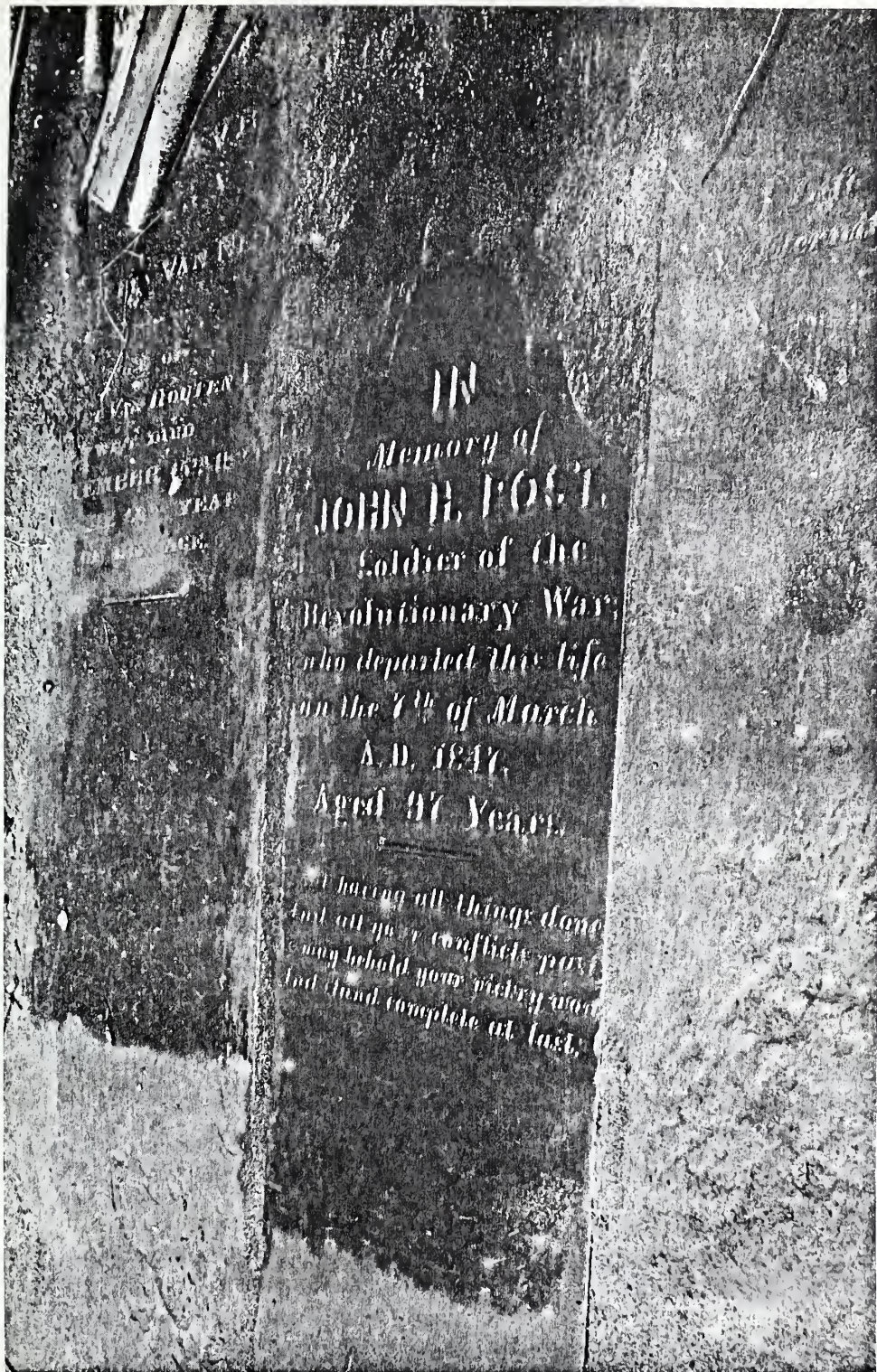
The number of acres suitable for cultivation was inadequate to support the minister's family, and in 1758 a new parsonage and farm of forty odd acres were purchased beyond the village. Dr. Van Schott now owns and occupies this parsonage. The old parsonage near the church was rented for tavern purposes for which it was used for more than one hundred years. With the passing of the years, the village began to grow so much so that it was thought advisable to lay out into building lots all land, excepting that part south of the present Prospect street, and in 1776 a map, known as the Hessel Peterse Map, was made, and the lots divided among the Patentees, or the eldest son of a deceased patentee, many of whom built thereon. Before proceeding with this map a search was made in vain for the old deed, if ever there had been one, whereupon a new deed was obtained as above set forth.

The old village began to assume new life after the Whiskey Insurrection in Pennsylvania had quieted out, and the country settled down to business. By 1800, there seemed to be at least a demand for more building lots, which continued until 1804, when a new map, called the Henderson Map, was made upon which New street appears for the first time. Lots were laid out between that street and the present Prospect street, and thirty-six building lots laid out on the southerly side of New Street, which later were converted into and made part of the graveyard, not one of these thirty-six being used as originally intended. It was not until after the War of 1812 that improvements began in earnest. In the next twenty years or so nearly every lot excepting the thirty-six had been improved, giving the village a population of about 1,500, and being the metropolis for the country twenty-five miles or more to the north and west.

Naturally the death rate increased and ere long more land was required for burials. In 1814 the first addition was made, followed in 1849, and in 1865 by the second and third additions. Because of its







HERO OF THE REVOLUTION'S GRAVESTONE, IN "OLD FIRST" GRAVEYARD, PASSAIC





association with the beginnings of things hereabouts, and because the early Patentees and their relatives were members or supporters of the church, and by reason of sentiment and attachment, these persons continued to bury their dead in this old God's acre for over two hundred years. To these old settlers no spot seemed so dear as this old church and vicinity. Here they came to be married, here their children were baptized, and here they were buried. Questions concerning government and its policies were here discussed, and during the periods of Wars of 1776 and 1812, mooted questions were discussed by the leading men of the neighborhood, and the very difficult problems were discoursed from the pulpit. During the Revolution, the church was blessed with a pastor who was a strong supporter of the battle for liberty and independence, and frequently made addresses not only in the church but in the tavern, formerly the old parsonage. This old house (unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1877), was held by the church until 1799, when the same was sold. It had been a tavern since 1759. It was here that General Washington stopped while in this vicinity, his first visit being November 21, 1776, on his retreat from Fort Lee. The bridge crossing the river was directly opposite this tavern, which after Washington and his army had crossed, Captain John H. Post, with the help of young men of the village, destroyed, thus protecting Washington. During those days of November 21, 22, Washington's army was encamped in the rear of the tavern, spread out over the entire graveyard.

Young Post, whose brave act has, for very many years, been extolled, was a native of this vicinity, where he died in 1847, and was buried in the first addition to the yard. His tombstone remains in good condition and bears the inscription:

In Memory of John H. Post,  
a Soldier of the Revolutionary Army, who departed this life on the  
7th March, A. D., 1847, aged 97 years.

"That having all things done  
And all your conflicts past,  
Ye may behold your victory won  
And stand complete at last."

His wife was buried by his side. The inscription on her tombstone reads: In Memory of Elizabeth Ackerman, wife of John H. Post, who was born in the year 1755, and died May 29, 1860, in the 105th year of her age.

The winter of 1777 was intensely cold, and the soldiers had no overcoats, shoes, stockings or blankets. One day Washington called and asked the men if they could bear it. They replied, "We'll try to, and when you want us we'll be ready."

Smallpox in Morristown camp led Washington to prefer Acquackanonk for permanent camp for his entire army. But he was outvoted.





Many hereabouts who fell in battle were not buried here and numbers who died in this camp are not remembered by a stone.

Robert Drummond, a rich merchant at the bridge, who became traitor and raised a British company of 200, and marched at their head to the front, has two children buried in the old first acre, which contains the remains of many of the first settlers and their descendants, among them men prominent in their day in both local and national affairs, including soldiers, sailors, business men, lawyers, physicians and editors, sheriffs, judges, county clerks, etc.

For nearly two centuries the yard was kept in fine condition, with a neat fence surrounding it. But it began to be neglected about twenty years ago, since when the fence disappeared and everything went to ruin. In 1896, William W. Scott, Esq., took time off (fortunately now) to carefully go through the yard and copy every inscription. There were then 1,100 graves with stones. In addition, there were many mounds without stones. There is no doubt but that after 200 years many of the stones have crumbled to pieces, while any number of the earlier graves lacked inscriptive stones because of the need of an artist to inscribe them.

The following men, who are buried here, were soldiers in the Revolutionary War:

Adrian Post, Adrian Post, Michael Vreeland, Robert Blair, Isaac Breadstead, Thomas Post, Richard Ludlow, Adrian Post, Jacob Van Winkle, John H. Post, Garret Speer, John A. Van Riper, Walling Van Winkle, Jacob Morris, John C. Garbrant, Garret Van Houten, Abram I. Haring, Robert Ennis, Rinear Blanchard, Isaac Freeland.

During the Revolutionary War this graveyard land was used as an encampment on the following dates:

1776—Nov. 14. By Pennsylvania troops. 21. By Washington's army of 3,000 men.

1777—Jan. 4. By enemy troops under General Howe. June 6. By General Dongen's troops. July 8 to Sept. 4. By Washington's troops.

1778—June 5. By General Heard's guards taking Governor Franklin a prisoner to Connecticut. July. By Washington's troops. Sept., Oct. By Pennsylvania troops. Nov. By Washington's troops. Dec. By Pennsylvania troops.

1779—July. By Cornwallis's and Howe's army. Oct. By General Sullivan's army.

1780—July 5. By Pennsylvania troops. Aug. By General St. Clair's troops.

1781—July 4. American troops had a parade. Aug. By French troops. Sept. By Washington's troops. Oct. By General Hazen's troops.

1782—Lord Sterling, who was stationed here during the remainder of the war, established permanent quarters here for his troops.



We find this record of the First Pennsylvania troops:

Acquackanonk Bridge, Dec. 10, 1778.

Parole  
Countersign.

Details for Guard.  
C. S. S. C. P.

Adjutant of the day from the 10th regiment.  
Division Orders, Dec. 11, 1778.

Parole  
Countersign.

Details for Guard.  
C. S. S. C. P.  
O. O. 1. 1. 10.

The following were in the expedition against the Indians, 1791: Joseph Hendrickson, Matthew Mitchel, Solomon Thorp, Isaac Stimets.

The following in the Pennsylvania Whiskey Insurrection, 1794: George Garrabrant, Peter Post, Thomas Cadmus, John Pier, Isaac Kip, John M. Van Riper, Peter Garrison, Albert Hopper, Jacob Van Winkle, Adam Garretson.

The following served in the War of 1812: Captain Jeremiah Mitchel, born 1786, died 1835, also sixteen of his company of thirty men.

The following in the Civil War: Peter J. Buys, Theodore H. Craig, George Eager, Leonard Faulkner, George Gillians, Joseph M. Gillians, Charles Hoffman, George V. Low, William O'Neill, George Post, William T. Riker, Andrew Yereance, Christopher Yereance.

The following in the Spanish American War: Illion Conrad, William A. Neal, and others, without headstones.

In 1872 the city of Passaic passed an ordinance prohibiting burials of human bodies anywhere in the city under penalty of fifty dollars for each offense.

In December, 1874, the Sexton of the church was called upon to dig the grave for the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Alibone, who recently had died in this city. The Sexton applied to the Registrar of Vital Statistics for permission to bury, which was refused. He reported to the church consistory who, after consulting with Lawyer Jonathan Dixon, of Jersey City, who later became judge of this district, instructed the Sexton to proceed, and the church would protect him. He went ahead and buried the body, and was beginning to forget the incident when he was served with a summons in a case entitled, The City of Passaic vs. Samuel G. W. Couenhoven, to recover the fifty dollars penalty. The case was tried before Justice Duffus, and a jury, in the old City Hall, which was filled with citizens interested in the result. Thomas M. Moore was the city's lawyer, while Judge Dixon represented the defendant. The case was most ably handled by these legal luminaries, and the jury composed of capable men. The trial lasted all day, and at its close, the jury brought in their verdict for the defendant, on the ground that the ordinance was





unreasonable in prohibiting burials in this old cemetery, where interments had been made for nearly two centuries without detriment to the inhabitants. The ordinance was repealed April 14, 1875, and a new one passed allowing burials in the city in graves six feet deep.

The church never sold any grave plots, simply granted an easement for burials.

Standing near the driveway that led across the graveyard from Gregory avenue to New street, was a small, white tombstone bearing this inscription:

IRA OTIS,

Died July 21, 1832.

Aged 33 yrs. 1 month and 2 days.

Ira Otis was a civil engineer who surveyed, laid out and constructed that part of the Erie railroad from Rutherford to Clifton. It was while superintending the excavating of the road through the church lands that he was stricken with cholera which raged furiously in New York and throughout the country generally in that year. There were many cases here nearly all terminating fatally. The upper part of the old "Tap House" adjoining the church was turned into a hospital, especially for these victims. Otis died there. He was a smart, intelligent young man, and gave promise of a brilliant career. His loss was keenly felt by the railroad, who missed his valuable services very much.

In 1921 the city acquired the yard for a park.

#### ANCIENT BURIALS IN ACQUACKANONK.

In time when this first church yard could accommodate no more burials, land contiguous to the church was utilized. In the course of a generation the church was enlarged and the front changed to face the present Erie railroad and about an acre of land at the north corner, taken from the farm land, for graveyard purposes. The new building, like the old, had no excavation beneath, nor were the bodies which the new edifice covered removed at this time, as was the case on other occasions when enlargement or rebuilding took place, consequently, the present edifice erected in 1829, covered a great many graves the most of them being those of the pioneer settlers, some of them patentees, of this section of the country.

The first form of heating was the foot stove, carried from home, filled with live coals of fire at the noon house near by, and used by women most sensitive to the cold, of a barn-like structure during a long service. Men did not use them. The wood stove was the next method of heating, which in this church served the purpose until about 1885, when the first hot air furnace (one) took the place of two stoves, to instal which underneath the present edifice, excavations were made of a portion of what originally was the place of burial of the first settlers, including some of the patentees and their families, over which, and



without disturbing, the then new church was erected. Until this fact was discovered in 1885, the whereabouts of the graves of these ancient folks was a mystery.

It is necessary to bear in mind that as this was the only church yard in this part of the State, for half a century after the first settlement, families residing twenty miles away, buried relatives here. During the Revolution there was a dwarf by the name of Peter Van Winkle whose head was two feet in diameter and which required the support of a wooden rack. The head weighed more than his body and limbs. He was unable to walk. Washington visited him more than once.

In 1885, P. W. Doremus, undertaker, while removing bodies to make room for the furnace, came upon the grave of one, whose head required a very large box, which he had made especially to accommodate what was supposed to be the head of this dwarf, which he buried in the graveyard proper.

Among the bodies removed by Undertaker Doremus was that of Elias Michielse (or Vreeland) who erected the first house in the present county of Passaic, wherein the first religious services were held as early, perhaps, as 1685, and continued until the congregation had erected a building of its own. About ten feet to the east of this grave of Vreeland, was that of the Rev. Henricus Coens, who was one of the beloved ministers of this church, honored by having his body buried beneath his pulpit, in 1735, where it had remained for 150 years. While other dominies are said to have been buried under the pulpit, there is no evidence of it on record nor on the ground. It meant that those bodies were under the floor of the church. What may have been the remains of Dominie Van Dressen, interred several feet west of the Dominie Coens grave, were found alongside of that of his wife Margaret who was buried June 1, 1751, at the expense of the congregation, the items of which, shown by a bill still in existence, were:

Baking for obsequies .....	8s.
Sugar, rum wine, butter .....	£2. 15s. 4d.
Barrel of beer .....	10s.
Burial .....	15s.

All funerals were conducted by the church and were occasions of general public interest, and (of adults) attended by families from near and far.

In nearly every case of death of adults service was held in the church. There was a schedule of charges as follows:

Heads of families .....	18 guilders
Unmarried, between 12 and 25.....	10 "
Children under 12 .....	5 "
Ringing bell:	
1 guilder to the church.	
2 guilders to the ringer.	
Use of Mortuary Cloth:	
2 guilders to the church.	
1 guilder to the Voorliser.	



A guilder was equal to twelve and one-half cents. The Voorliser was paid, by the way, six gulden (pennies) for recording every baptism.

The following bill shows the accessories for a funeral:

Oct. 22, 1807, Peter Demarest. Bought of Lucas Van Buskirk for the funeral of Jacobus Demarest:

5 gallons of wine .....	£2. 15s. 0d.
½ gallons of spirits .....	5s.
6 dozen pipes .....	2s. 9d.
3 ½-lb. papers tobacco .....	1s. 6d.

In 1815 the executors of Robert Bernhill paid twelve shillings for wine and pipes for the funeral. For the funeral of Petrus Pier there was paid for:

Pipes, tobacco, wine, beer and snuffs.....	\$8.76
For coffin .....	.74
Preparing body, digging grave, use of horse and wagon.....	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$12.50

Few colored persons were allowed burial here—all slaves being buried on their masters' farms. There were exception, as in the case of Auntie Dinah, who served in the family of Henry Gerritse for ninety years and was highly respected. She was buried near the grave of her master a few months before his death. For her funeral he furnished:

8 doz. clay pipes .....	3s.
4 papers tobacco .....	2s.
Barrel beer .....	12s.
6 gallons of wine .....	£3. 2s.
1 gallon spirits .....	12s.
Black woman washing body .....	4s.
Coffin .....	4s.
Digging grave .....	2s.
Cloth over coffin .....	3s.
Tolling bell .....	3s.
Burial .....	3s.
	<hr/>
	£5. 10s.

In addition he paid the bill of Dr. John De Vance, "French" doctor, as he was called, for medical attendance upon old auntie for more than a year, including medicines amounting to £14. 10s., making a total of about £20 or in the neighborhood of \$100, an extraordinary large bill for those days, which Mr. Garritse paid gladly, because of her faithful services, which dropsy and old age brought to an end when she was ninety-nine years of age. Having no surname she was known as Henry Garritse's Dinah.

Undertakers were unknown. The church owned a one-horse black wagon, and during the earlier years, a white horse, which was used with that wagon at burials. The church also possessed a plain wooden bier, upon which the coffin was carried into the church, upon which it rested during the service, after which it was used to convey the coffin to the grave, covered with the mourning cloth belonging to the church. The Voorliser of the church had charge of funerals, who, two days previous,







"OLD FIRST" REFORMED GRAVEYARD. LAST DAYS OF



would travel around the neighborhood and notify friends of the deceased of the funeral. Coffins were made by a carpenter who charged for his labor and materials from fifty cents to \$1.50.

During the Colonial period and many years following, there was no person here who could furnish tomb stones properly carved, and it was necessary to go to A. Labagh in New York. From a bill of his dated October 16, 1766, we find that he charged for the grave stone of Gerrit Gerritse, £1. 15s. Cutting letters on same, 15s. The usual charge for lettering was one and one-half cents each.

But the time came when this old grave yard, the oldest one in this county, ceased to serve the purposes for which it was intended. Burials of members of the older, well-to-do families ceased completely thirty years ago, when there began the transfer of bodies to other cemeteries. The last buried, (Ebenezer C. Scott), was in June, 1919.

The fence, which for more than a century surrounded it, began to disappear gradually until not a post, rail, picket or gate remained, to supply firewood for families living near. This was followed by the worst acts of vandalism, and destruction ever perpetrated upon hallowed ground, which was encouraged by the fact that the owner—the Protestant Reformed (Dutch), now known as Old First Church, having vacated the old for a new church edifice, abandoned the grave yard and gave no more thought to its care and upkeep.

The destruction was then resumed with greater avidity than ever by the youth of the neighborhood, who threw down and broke scores of headstones, carried unbroken ones away from their right places and placed them upon some graves minus stones—sometimes near, sometimes far away. In several instances, stones were carried eight hundred to one thousand feet away from their right place. Pieces of the broken stones were not only carried to other parts of the yard, but were afterwards found far from the yard in the streets and fields and lumber yards. Not satisfied with this the hellish outlaws broke down the doors of vaults, tore apart the coffins within, ransacking the remains, using the skulls for Jack O'lanterns, and the larger leg bones as baseball bats. In adding to these scandalous and barbarous acts, these young devils commenced their orgies of what they called "Fun in the dark," and continued it so persistently that it was not safe for an unescorted female to pass within or along the borders of the old yard. All this was common knowledge and reported in the newspapers.

So things continued until there was no more disgraceful or dangerous site in the city. Gradually, however, it became apparent to some influential and public spirited men that something should be done to mitigate the nuisance, and who were of the opinion that the property should be acquired by the city for park purposes. With this purpose in view, and of his own initiative, William W. Scott, Esq., prepared and sent to a score or more of public spirited men the following invitation:







For the purpose of discussing the question of the advisability of the purchase, or otherwise acquiring by the City of Passaic, for park purposes, the old Van Wagoner House, and the Reformed (Dutch) Church Cemetery (both of Colonial and Revolutionary fame), a meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. Robert Dix Benson, 66 Passaic Avenue, Friday evening, October 20th (instant) at 8 o'clock, to which you are cordially invited. October 17, 1916. (Signed), WILLIAM W. SCOTT.

There was a hearty response to this invitation, "to discuss the question of the advisability of the purchase or otherwise acquiring by the City of Passaic for park purposes of the old Van Wagoner house and the Reformed Dutch Church Cemetery, both of Colonial and Revolutionary fame."

Robert Dix Benson, chairman, stated he was very much interested in the plan and hoped it would be carried out for various reasons, among them, because of the benefit to the people, and the beautifying and benefiting the city; that this section about the Prospect street station was a disgrace to the city; that it was in a worse condition now than when he came to Passaic nearly thirty years ago. He showed how the improving of this property would enhance the value of nearby real estate as to result in the city's receiving a large return in increased taxes—more than ever the cost and expense of upkeep would amount to.

The feeling of the meeting was that the City Commissioners should be requested to ascertain the cost of disinterring the remains of the bodies to some other suitable location in some cemetery, and after this had been accomplished another meeting would be held at the call of the chair.

The following were present: William W. Scott, Robert Dix Benson, Edward Mott Woolley, W. S. Benson, General Bird W. Spencer, City Commissioner J. H. Osborn, John E. Ackerman, City Commissioner John H. McGuire, Morgan Speer, the Rev. Edward Dawson, Thomas A. R. Goodlatte, E. M. Hale, Robert D. Kent, Mason R. Strong, Edward A. Greene, Richard Morrell, Mayor George N. Seger and Postmaster James J. Cowley.

Shortly thereafter the matter was presented to that Board, and Mr. Commissioner McGuire appointed a "Committee on Design and Location for a Permanent War Memorial." This committee held meetings to which the public was invited to submit ideas and plans. At their close a mass meeting was held at Willard Hall, January 20, 1919. At this meeting, however, this committee made no report, having given notice that no recommendation would be made to the City Commissioners until after February 20th, in order to give time to all persons to offer suggestions.

To the surprise of many, however, the unexpected happened when Mr. Benson presented his plan, in a well-gotten-up illustrated pamphlet of sixteen pages, showing in what way and just where on the property there might be placed: (1) Soldiers' Monument; (2) Post Office; (3) City Hall, Municipal Court; (4) Market and Armory. The old Dutch



Church to remain. But suggestion was made that the remains of the dead and all stones be removed and the yard levelled off, and converted into a beautiful park, which it was intended should become a Civic Center. It was suggested that the bodies of the first settlers, civil and military men, and those who worked so hard to establish our government, be disinterred and immediately re-interred in one large plot upon which an appropriate tablet would be placed telling of the part taken by these men in that arduous undertaking.

Mr. Benson's plan was heartily approved, and after lengthy discussion, adopted. For this Mr. Benson was dubbed with "The father of Memorial Park." Thereafter proceedings were taken under Chapter 251 of the Laws of 1916 to acquire the property, the greater part of which was owned in fee simple by the old Church, which by deed executed in October, 1920, conveyed the same to the city.

On April 3, 1920, upon application of the City of Passaic, Judge Minturn, of the Supreme Court, appointed commissioners to appraise the value of, and the damages to, the easements acquired by hundreds of families that purchased and paid for the right and privilege of burials therein, to them and their heirs, forever.

Work of disinterring and re-interring began in May and completed July 1, 1921.

Mr. Scott made a careful survey of more than 1,000 graves and marked such as may, because of some word or deed or military service, be entitled to remembrance.

The remains of all soldiers were collected from the graves so marked, and removed to a circular plot about seventy-five feet in diameter in the exact centre of which and undisturbed, is the grave and tombstone of John H. Post, a hero of 1776, around and about whom will rest other heroes of those days.

This plot is in the centre of the old grave yard and, for many years—about two centuries—has been the last abode of bodies of many old residents, laid, some ten feet deep in what was the most depressed (lowest) part of the yard.

The remains of such as were not selected are re-buried, near the soldiers' plot, and are inclosed in new, clean boxes made on the grounds.

In order to keep members of families from being scattered or separated, all were placed in a long box or coffin, divided into as many sections as there are bodies in that family. Husbands and wives are mingled together.

Mr. Wise prepared maps showing the old location of whose body, and the exact spot to which it has been removed, filed with the City Clerk.

The armory site includes a great deal more land than that occupied by the building itself, about one-half of the old graveyard. The entire site will be swept clean of all gravestones, monuments and mausoleums.

The rest of the old grave yard will also be cleared of all stones, monuments, etc., and converted into a level lawn surface. Many of the older stones of noted men have been marked by Mr. Scott and will be moved to and placed around the old church which was so dear to these folk.

The ancient vault near Gregory Avenue, which was constructed as a receptacle for bodies awaiting burial, and used as such for the bodies of a number of influential men of this neighborhood, during the past 200 years, is preserved. Mr. Scott has hopes of preserving this in keeping with two in the Copp's Hill burying ground, Boston, built about the same time as this one was.



As to the buried bodies, very little was left of the older ones, and of the men of the Revolution, not enough remained to fill a man's hat, and of those buried previous to that war their remains were so completely disintegrated as to have become part of the soil from which the same cannot be distinguished—an object lesson of the fulfilment of God's curse to Adam: "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Many interesting and curious observations were made from day to day at the cemetery. Workmen found an English sixpense, dated 1773. It is made of silver, and was in a perfect state of preservation. A very clear likeness of King George III (King of England before and during the American Revolution) was on the coin. The date was very distinct. Thomas Potter, foreman of the laborers, now has the coin.

One body removed recently was placed in the soil in 1816. The clothing was almost as good as ever. The body of a soldier of the Union Army during the Civil war was taken out yesterday. The uniform in which the man was buried was in very good state. The stripes on the trousers showed very plainly, as did other colors. Those who have observed while about the work have noted that woolen clothing lasts longer than either the box or remains.





## CHAPTER XIV.

### PASSAIC'S LANDMARKS—PASSAIC'S PLYMOUTH ROCK.

The recent celebration of the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth upon the rock made famous by that event, is a reminder that Passaic has her Plymouth rock, whose history, like that of the Pilgrims, dates back to the seventeenth century.

The year 1678 witnessed the coming of the white man to the present city of Passaic, who selected it as a trading post with the Indians, who had a large village here. The first purchase of land included what for years and years was an island heavily wooded and now included in First Ward Park. The second purchase was of the Point Patent, more particularly described in the earlier part of this work.

About one-half of this patent, stretching westerly from the present lower canal, or raceway, of the Dundee company (which was then the creek that is spoken of in the patent), was a thick forest covered with a heavy growth of timber, consisting of birch, chestnut, elm, hickory, maple, willow and a very few black oak trees, in and among which brush and briers grew so thick as to make one's progress through the same difficult and slow.

In July, 1678, when Hoagland came here to select land, he was accompanied by Robert Vanquelin who was the official surveyor of the colony, who personally inspected and surveyed every tract of land for which a patent would be issued to the purchaser. These men came by sail-boat from the port of Perth Amboy and landed at the Indian village which was located on this Point Patent. With their eyes they surveyed it from where they stood and saw that a portion of what Hoagland wanted was bounded by the Passaic river on the east and partly on the north and south. But he was entitled to more land than was bounded by the river, which he had the privilege of selecting anywhere he choose. He was entitled in his own right to 270 acres of upland excluding swamps. Surveyor's calculation of the tract that extended easterly from the creek, (now Weasel brook and tail race), to the river, and northerly to the present Monroe street near Parker avenue, and from that point the centre line of that street continued easterly to the river, showed an area of 158 acres, but after deducting swamps and marshes, left 150 acres. For his second tract that should contain just 120 acres, he selected the land on the westerly side of the creek contiguous to the first tract, the northerly line of which extended along the centre line of Monroe street from the creek westerly to a point 150 feet west of Hamilton avenue, whence a line was struck running due south which at the end of the required distance pierced an oak tree standing two feet west of a large



grey rock and from this tree the southerly boundary was surveyed to the creek.

In order to secure a permanent and lasting monument for at least one of the corner boundaries, which even an oak tree could not perpetuate very many years, this grey rock was selected, instead of the oak tree. This rock stood a little to the west of the present Prospect street about 100 feet south of Park place where it remained undisturbed for nearly two centuries after its discovery by white men. It is not to be wondered at that this rock should have been so selected, because in the entire 278 acres, it was one of only two stones larger than a man's head. The other was in a field upon which No. 12 school now stands. No doubt this large, grey rock was an agreeable surprise to them, who no doubt wondered how it came about that this rock was the only one to be seen in a region void of rocks. Had an examination been made it would have revealed the fact that it was not indigenous to the soil thereabouts, in which was found only the soft, red, sand stone or shale rock, while this large, grey rock was hard as flint, composed of quartz, and in texture resembling what is known as trap rock in all but color. It was found not to scale, chip or crack. They, perhaps, were unable to account for its presence here, at least the science which led to that explanation had not been discovered and it is very doubtful if they knew that its history went back thousands and thousands of years to the glacial period when ice hundreds of feet thick covering the highest of our mountains spread itself over the greater portion of our State. Frozen in this sheet of ice were rocks large and small. But a change came when, in process of time the sun's rays soften the ice, which slowly loosened its hold on first the highest mountains, and the big ice sheet began to move southward upon water that was receding toward the sea still holding, frozen therein, rocks of all sizes and shapes that had been caught in its icy grasp, far up in the mountains, some hundreds of miles from here. In time the ice began to melt whereby the rocks so held in its frozen grasp became loose and fell to the earth.

Such is the ancient history of this large, grey rock. There is a similar rock, lying near the Weasel brook, about 200 feet west of Lexington avenue, Clifton, a poem upon which, written by the late John M. Morse is applicable to this large, grey rock, wherein he says:

Did moving glacier carry thee away,  
And toss thee up and down as if in play,  
And polish all thy corners, by the force  
With which it kept its slow, relentless course?  
Did'st thou at last, as if in triumph ride  
For miles and miles upon an icy tide,  
And did that mass of ice at last give way  
And drop thee here, upon a bed of clay?

This large, grey rock was subsequently used to mark the northerly corner of the tract of fourteen acres conveyed to the Low Dutch Church at Acquackanonk (now Old First), but it never came into public view until 1707, when what is now Prospect





street was laid out, whose westerly line now runs close to the spot where the rock then stood, but then was fifty feet from the road. At various times this large, grey rock was used as a monument for marking distances or locating some house, barn or building and upon the public records in these instances it is called: "A large, grey rock, being the southwest corner of the Point Patent," or reputed corner. As such it was recognized by the early settlers and their descendants so long as it remained where it was discovered. In 1859 a change in the lines of the road brought the rock so near that part of it encroached upon the road, where it remained until 1867, when the purchaser of the lot upon which part of it stood expressed a desire to have the same removed oblivious of its value. In the meantime Alonzo D. Peeler, who was then the owner of the land whereon it stands today, had learned the history of the rock from an old settler, secured it, and had the same removed to his lot, which to preserve, he placed in a hole until such time as he could afford to place it upon a pedestal at the corner with an appropriate tablet. But misfortune befell Mr. Peeler who sold the lot before he was able to carry out his plans, and the rock and its history were forgotten. Subsequently ex-Postmaster Willard bought the lot, took the rock out of its hole, and placed it in its present location at the southerly corner of Passaic avenue and Grove terrace. This rock is four feet four inches high, irregular in shape, the respective sides measuring two, three and four feet. Its surface is smooth, and does not scale; there is not a crack or fissure in it, so that today it presents the same appearance as it did thousands of years ago.

*Weasel Brook*—A good sized stream of water flowing through Clifton and the Fourth ward of Passaic, has been, since the year 1680, when two Labadist missionaries visited here, known as Weasel brook. The name Weasel is a corruption of Wesel, a town on the right bank of the river Rhine, Rhenish Prussia. It is the "creek" referred to in the Point Patent of 1678, which divided the two tracts of land therein described.

It is well to preserve all that is known respecting this brook, as, with the march of improvements it has begun to disappear and, in time, will exist only in name. This brook rises in a spring below Weasel mountain, on land formerly of Richard Compton, and flows eastward to the Morris canal, which intersects it. Before the coming of the canal the waters of a stream called Deep brook, flowed into the Weasel brook.

Since the Morris canal crossed its bed, the brook has received the overflow water therefrom, by means of a waste weir. Below the canal Deep brook empties into Weasel brook. After leaving the canal the Weasel brook receives the waters of a number of springs, some of considerable volume, notably on the Quimby, Post, Westervelt and Garri-son farms.

The course of the brook is from the canal, under the Paterson and Newark, and Morris and Essex railroads, to Post's and Westervelt's mill ponds, which its waters formed; thence eastward going under the Paterson plank road, the Erie railroad, Central avenue and Weasel road. A little east of the latter it turns south crossing under Highland avenue thence southeast under Van Winkle avenue, President street and Parker avenue until it empties itself into Vreeland's lake, from which it passes under Monroe street, and continues west, south and east,



passing under Jefferson street and finally loses itself in the waters of the tail race of the Dundee canal, which empties into the Passaic river. Originally, and before the construction of the tail race, the brook continued in a zig-zag and very crooked course from its present confluence with the tail race, to the Passaic river, into which its waters flowed, on the west line of the present tail race; so that the west line of the old brook and tail race at that point are identical.

The water of this ancient stream was utilized by farmers and manufacturers, to supply the undershot or overshot wheel which furnished the power for their mills. The first mill to be encountered along its course, was that of the Post family, at the present Athenia, which was a saw mill, furnishing material in the shape of sawed logs, to those who might require them, in various sizes and shapes, for building purposes, and also doing work in that line for farmers, who hauled their logs here for that purpose. Much, if not all of the hard timber used in the preliminary construction of the Dundee dam, locks, canal and race, was furnished from Post's mill, which continued doing a good business until 1868, when the Morris and Essex railroad company acquired and constructed its railroad through the pond that was formed by the water of the brook, thereby blotting out the pond and putting an end to Post's mill. The mill itself soon disappeared, but the old stone dwelling remains to muse on the men and activities of the days of long ago.

The next mill below was the Westervelt flour and grist mill, where David A. Westervelt and his son, Richard, carried on a most thriving and profitable business until the death of the latter in 1897. This was the oldest mill seat in the county, having been established by Gilbert Vanderhoof about 1720, when he erected for his homestead the stone house still standing, at the foot of Westervelt avenue, near the brook. Vanderhoof, then only eighteen years of age, came here from his home near the present Lodi and engaged as a farm hand with one Jacob Vreeland, who owned hundreds of acres in the present cities of Clifton and Passaic. Vreeland had a daughter, Margretta, with whom Vanderhoof fell in love at first sight, and before six months had gone by they were married. Shortly thereafter Margretta's father made them a present of the land and furnished the means to erect the house and a small mill. Here they lived and thrived until 1736, when they sold to Garret Geritse whose son, Peter, conveyed the same to Ralph Doremus, who found inadequate the small pond that furnished the water power for the mill, in order to increase which he obtained a lease for one acre of land adjoining his property upon which he formed a pond. This lease, made by the owner, Ralph Van Wagoner, is perhaps the only form of an English lease of Shakespeare's time, in this vicinity. The lease was to said Doremus, forever, and the annual rental one pepper corn to be paid yearly. Said land was to be flooded with water. Now, no water covers it, and there is no more a pond there. What is now the Fourth Ward





Park was, during the Revolution, a large mill pond that furnished the power for Henry Garritse's grist mill, which stood along the brook about 300 feet east of old Weasel road, where now is the factory of Jacques Wolf Co. For years Henry was successful and made money. When his only son, John, arrived at full age, he was given an equal share in the business. But John could not withstand the temptations incident to prosperity. He soon neglected his business for fast horses and girls and it did not take long to ruin everything including their business. Many years later a sportsman, Henry V. Butler, a lover of fast horses of which he had many, looked about for a stock farm which should possess a stream of pure water for his horses to drink and stand in. This Garritse place met all his requirements and he bought it, soon stocking it with many of the best horses in the country for the accommodation of which he erected commodious barns all fitted with the latest improvements and appliances. Butler's stables became famous, and were often visited by famous horsemen.

Farther on down the brook and at the present Highland avenue, was another mill site and pond. The pond embraced the block bounded by Highland, Hope, Lake and Van Winkle avenues, and the mill stood at the corner of the two first named avenues. It was a two-storied frame structure, full of large windows. The first building was erected about 1800 and was used for the purpose of making glassware and optical instruments. Fire destroyed the mill in 1820. A few years later Robert McCandles erected a new mill which he used as a distillery, using the brook's waters. He was succeeded by John Nightingale who manufactured hoopskirts. When they ceased to be fashionable he gave up the business. Less than a month later the mill burned to the ground and the dam washed away never to be rebuilt.

The next pond encountered in following the brook, was that now, and for the past century, known as the Vreeland pond, at Monroe street. Jacob E. Vreeland formed this pond about 1805, to furnish power for a grist mill which stood below the dam at the head of George street. His grandson, John J. E., erected a frame mill farther down the brook upon the premises of the present Pantasote Leather Company, which was operated by a large overshot wheel, the water to operate which was conducted through a trunk trench from the pond at Monroe street. Upon its completion he leased the mill to Fenton and Riley, bleachers and printers of cotton goods, handkerchiefs, etc. These men were succeeded by a Frenchman, Mr. Goutard, he by a Mr. Baldwin, and he by John Watson, who was succeeded by Watson's Bleachery, followed by the Pantasote Leather Company.

Weasel brook waters, with the exception of an occasional overflow from the Morris canal, are from springs, seventeen of which formerly fed it, but which are now reduced to ten. In addition to this there were five smaller brooks now eradicated which added their streams to





the volume of the old brook. One of these smaller brooks, known as Clifton Springs brook, was fed by springs located near the southeast corner of Madison avenue and First street, whence their waters flowed easterly under Main avenue, on the east side of which there was for many years a large body of water called Ackerman's pond, used for power purposes of a mill at the lower end of the pond, from which point the brook continued its course southerly, parallel with Florence avenue, at the end of which it ran into the Weasel brook.

It was in this Ackerman mill that cotton bleaching by chemicals was first done in this State, or perhaps in the United States, by James Shepperd, in 1813, where cotton goods were beetled and finished after the European style for the New York market. Mr. Shepperd removed to Little Falls, and William P. Ackerman became owner of the mill property where he conducted a tannery.

There was a time when great value was placed upon the the waters of the old brook, both as to purity and volume, and every riparian owner along the brook's whole course, guarded against impairment of either. In fact the old brook was of great value to the land over which it took its course, to protect which resort was had to the courts. The most famous law suit was that of John Watson against the Acquackanonk Water Company. In 1870 this company utilized Vreeland lake as a reservoir for water to be furnished to the public, and located its pumping station at Monroe street. The company purposed taking the less pure waters of the Dundee canal nearby and commingling them with the waters of the Vreeland lake, discharging some of said mixed waters into Weasel brook, thereby polluting that stream and rendering the waters thereof unfitted for bleaching purposes, by Watson, without paying him anything therefor. Soon after Watson had presented his objections, the company applied to the Circuit Court for the appointment of commissioners to assess Watson's damages. The legality of such appointment was carried to the Supreme Court which decided that the company might purchase but could not condemn the right to divert these waters from the said Watson, who then started a suit in chancery applying for an injunction which was strenuously fought by the company. Much testimony was taken filling 543 printed pages, embracing a complete and minute history of the brook's physical features, and the chemical properties of its waters, which were shown to be pure spring. At the conclusion of the testimony, the company offered to pay Watson \$5,000, and to cease using and polluting the waters after six months' time. Watson accepted the offer, the company fulfilled its promise, and the lengthy litigation ended.

Although very ancient, the old brook of recent years has at times become turbulent and exhibited the strength of a young giant, overflowing its banks and washing away culverts. In the year 1902, following a heavy rain, it washed away the culverts under Main avenue, the



Erie railroad, Dundee drive, and other streets carrying with it blocks of masonry that weighed as much as ten tons, for the distance of a city block, and creating as much havoc as the flood of an ordinary river. In 1902 it lifted and carried dwelling houses for one block. Of late years the width of the brook having been reduced by encroachments, much damage has been done to adjoining properties by overflowing after heavy rains, which, at many times, has been very serious, particularly in the vicinity of Highland avenue and President street. Originally the average width was twelve feet, which has been reduced one-half by the owners of land over which it flows, who are to blame for the results of their greed, relief from which they, so far, and for the past dozen years, have appealed in vain to Clifton, Passaic and county authorities.

*Oiter Cuyll Spring and Brook*—One of the greatest advantages and attractions of a park is a stream of running water. Our Second and Third Ward and Weasel Parks are thus supplied. The source of the brook that flows through the Second Ward Park, originally known as the "Oiter Cuyll" brook, is a bubbling spring, near Linden street, upon premises, the first white man to own which was Hans Deidrich in 1684. His mother, who was a widow, married John Adrian Sip, in whom title to the land upon which the spring is located became vested later, but in what manner, the records fail to reveal, although the title continued in the Sip family until 1870.

In days ago, this spring furnished an inexhaustible supply of pure water, and in times of drought, supplied many families with drinking water. Among the older inhabitants, the spring and brook were not only spoken of as the "Oiter Cuyll" but, in the will of Cornelius Sip, it is used to designate the boundary of certain land. The words mean the "Otter's Hole." Originally the brook ran over the farms of Post, Van Wagoner and Vreeland, to Main avenue near which it joined another brook which had its source in a large spring known as Jacob Vreeland's spring, located midway in the block bounded by Monroe street, Lucille place, Martha place and Madison street, whence it ran easterly to and crossing under Main avenue, the Erie railroad and Lexington avenue, from which avenue it continued over private lands paralld, or nearly so, with Madison street, to the Weasel brook at Louisa street.

Upon this brook was located the first manufacturing industry in the present county of Passaic, which was a tannery, operated by Stephen Basset, and beside it was located a slaves' burying ground—corner of Hamilton avenue—now a school playground. At Hope avenue was the Vreeland watering trough for his horses. At the easterly side of Main avenue, alongside of the Erie railroad a by-road led across this brook, enabling travelers to drive into and across the brook to water their horses, and also to enable drovers to water their cattle, of which large droves passed every few days. Bordering the brook, which followed the westerly side of Main avenue before it passed under the avenue,





were perhaps half a dozen large willow trees, making of this spot, now covered by a brick building, Nos. 751 to 757, a most beautiful one, and most grateful and refreshing on hot days. This brook disappeared in 1898, when its waters were discharged into the Main avenue sewer.

Two other brooks led into the Weasel brook: One called the Soule brook, which ran from the Erie railroad easterly along what is Sherman street to Hope avenue, where it turned south to Quincy street, and thence easterly to the Vreeland pond. In the vicinity of the land east of Hope avenue, between Van Buren and Quincy street, it had washed away its banks, which there were ten to fifteen feet high, thereby forming several pools of 100 feet diameter. In 1892 the city attempted to drain the surface water from the vicinity of Chestnut street and Oak street about Main avenue into this brook. Mr. Soule filed a bill in Chancery and obtained a perpetual injunction restraining the city from ever doing so.

*Mineral Spring Brook*—This brook takes its name from a spring which is its source and which for two centuries has been known as the Mineral Spring, which is located south of Rowland avenue and about 425 feet west of Bloomfield avenue, whence it flows northerly about 600 feet, thence it crosses that avenue and continues easterly through Third Ward Park and over private property, crossing Brook avenue to the Passaic river, near which, on the southerly side of the avenue, where now is a small pond, were located, in Colonial days, the distilleries of Dirck (Richard) Vreeland. The spring was believed a century ago to possess mineral properties and a sanitarium erected nearby. On the city maps it is erroneously called McDonald's brook, given it by a surveyor, ignorant of the right name.

This spring attained fame through a noted physician of Paterson, Ebenezer K. Blachley. Dr. Blachley had a number of patients in old Acquackanonk, including the wealthy Sip families. It was while making a professional call upon Halmagh Sip that his attention was called to a mineral spring, located in Sip's woods, alongside of the present Bloomfield avenue, at the westerly limits of the city, the waters of which, Sip told the doctor, had a peculiar taste. This led to an investigation which satisfied the doctor that the waters of the spring possessed medicinal qualities. An analysis proved it to be an alkaline water, and a most efficacious remedy for those troublous affections arising from acidity of the stomach, for dyspepsia, and torpidity of the liver and many other ills. The most favorable feature of the water was its remarkable restorative power over the digestive and urinary organs that had become impaired, the tone of the stomach becoming improved, the appetite increased, and the action of the liver and kidneys accelerated to a remarkable degree. It was also found to be most beneficial for what is now termed malaria, in its chronic form. The vichy was found



very acceptable for table use, having an agreeable taste, which made it a refreshing and slightly exhilarating beverage.

It was about this time that the famous Saratoga Springs were being discovered as medicinal agencies, and the benefits of mineral waters in general were being heralded over the United States and Europe. Saratoga as a health resort had just been made an established fact, and more than one man saw the piles of money to be made in that enterprise. During his sickness (from which he recovered, and, as he afterwards related many times, by and through the efficacy of this water), Halmagh had read a great deal about the wonderful Saratoga Springs, so that by the time he was up and about he was ready to show the doctor where the spring was. They found it hidden away in the midst of a thick woods not far from an old stone house which had been occupied by Sip's grandfather. There was no road leading to it. Access was had only through a little path. Sip explained to the doctor that the spring was called the Spaw Spring, having been given to it by the Indians, who, his grandfather had told him, used it for medicinal purposes by their great Medicine Man. The doctor was favorably impressed and after talking the matter over it was agreed that Sip would have a public road laid out close by the spring, and that he and the doctor would go into partnership in a health resort which they would establish at that place, using the old house temporarily as a hotel until a more commodious building could be erected. This building was to be built by the doctor and was to be built on three sides of a large inner park, or court, back in the woods about 100 yards northwest of the spring. The interior was to be arranged with apartments from one to four rooms for family use. The building was intended to cover about two acres of land. In accordance with this agreement, Sip was instrumental in having on February 1st, 1803, a road laid which is the present Bloomfield avenue, west of Van Houten avenue. The spring is referred to in the description of the road as follows: "To a heap of stones a little to the east of the Spaw Spring." The doctor immediately began to advertise the new health resort, comparing it to the mineral springs of Europe, and speaking of its delightful location where wholesome air, sunshine and freedom from malaria abounded, and where the surrounding country was thickly wooded and the winds that sweep across the broad expanse of country bestow upon the locality their dry, bracing breath, laden with the fragrance of the fir and hemlock, chestnut, oak and pine trees which there grew in abundance. Its natural advantages were unequaled; it was delightfully situated in a health giving, life-giving climate and a spring whose clear, living waters, which came from their hidden sources in unfailing streams to heal and restore mankind were to be found nowhere else in the world. The gifts of nature had been supplemented and complemented by the intelligence and art of man by which it was proposed every provision would be made for the con-





venience, comfort and luxury of those who sought out this ideal resort for pleasure or for health.

In conformity with their agreement, Halmagh Sip, by deed bearing date, October 19th, 1809, conveyed to the doctor an undivided one-half of about five acres of land, "together with all minerals, mineral waters, springs and brooks, to said land pertaining."

Although the place was well advertised and at least locally well known, the enterprise never proved a success, although the doctor did not lose much money in the scheme. The only money spent was in remodeling of, and putting a frame addition to the old stone house and inclosing the same with a neat picket fence. The spring was inclosed and covered with an ornamental frame—what we might call summer-house, like the covering on the top of an old country well, large enough, however, to accommodate half a dozen persons. This also was enclosed with a fence. The enterprise was finally abandoned and the spring never was used for medicinal purposes after the doctor gave it up, although occasionally the water has been used by various individuals, but without any beneficial results. The old house long since disappeared.

"The trees, the flowers that his own hands had reared,  
The plants, the vines, that were so verdant seen,—  
The trees, the flowers, the vines have disappeared,  
And every plant has vanished from the green."

The old spring still bubbles its "life-giving" waters to a thankless public. All is desolation and ruin about it and nothing remains to indicate that it was once a rival of the Congress Springs at Saratoga.

*Indian Spring*—There was a spring right in the midst of the Indian village and used by the Red men. It stood near the edge of the river and some fifteen years ago was filled in. Its site is at the extreme southerly corner of First Ward Park, about ten feet west of Sixth street. An Indian path led from the spring easterly along the river shore to near Seventh street, where it turned southeasterly climbing a bank and thence to the cabin of the chief of the tribe. It was used by the white settlers for over two hundred years. Its site should be marked, as it would be an added natural feature of the park, all of which should be preserved. All water used by the Indians here in their ceremonies was obtained at this spring, which was held by them in great veneration. Every sacrifice offered was first purified by washing in the water of this spring.





## CHAPTER XV.

### PASSAIC RIVER AND BRIDGES.

It is an uncontroverted historical fact that the Passaic river was the first waters in America upon which a boat was propelled by steam, or, to emphasize it more impressively, the first steamboat in this country made its initial trip on the Passaic river, when the inhabitants of old Acquackanonk were given an opportunity on October 21, 1798, of witnessing the progress of a boat without sail or oar. The boat was the *Polacca*, every part of which was built at Second River, now Belleville, by Nicholas I. Roosevelt, ancestor of the late ex-President. This trial trip was a success, and from this boat Fulton conceived the idea of building the *Cleremont* in 1807.

Previous to this, the motive power was wind. The first boat of which we have knowledge was *Weasel*, commissioned March 28, 1782, "to cruise against the enemy and illicit trade." The next, *American*, lying at the Landing, where it was for sale.

Before becoming polluted, the Passaic river was the most beautiful and useful river in the State. Its serpentine course, whose edges were lined with beautiful trees and wild vines and shrubbery with a background of green fields and cultivated acres that stretched away toward embowered houses that always seemed to speak not only peace, but to hold out a welcome to the beholder in whom there was created a desire to stop and for awhile enjoy the hospitality thus offered, and to share in the peace depicted upon the landscape. "'Twas a consummation devoutly to be wished."

In those days there were beautiful villas, handsome houses and exceedingly well cultivated fields, pleasure-boat houses of unique design, with well-kept docks and grounds adjoining for many miles along the stream, whose beauties were seen to the best advantage from the deck of a boat preferably an excursion pleasure boat. Among such were: *Olive Branch*, 1838; *Wadsworth*, 1839; *Experiment*, 1840; *Proprietor and Owners*, 1844, which was a stern wheeler, owned and operated by Abram Zabriskie, and ran from his dock at the present Garfield. He also had a dock in Passaic. Other boats were: *Gilpin*, 1841; *American Girl*, 1849 to 1855; *Belleville*, 1856; *Confidence*, 1859. The government purchased her, and she was used in the Civil War.

While the *Confidence* was running, there was also in commission a freight boat *Laura Keene*. During the year 1863 the *Lodi*, built at the Reef (Delawanna) by Robert Rennie, known as the "King of Lodi," began her trips, followed in 1870 by the *Hugh Bolton*—both stern wheelers. In 1875 the *Rockaway* made her first trip, and continued



making them for five years when the *General Runyon*, named after ex-Chancellor Runyon, took her place, followed in 1885 by the *Coromandel*, which continued in business for about five years, succeeded by the *Cinderella*, whose business was ruined by the pollution of the river, which was very offensive by 1895, necessitating discontinuing all trips. Older residents will remember the freight boat *Novelty*, and the tugs *Clara-bel*, *Charles MacIntosh* and *Sunbeam*, which plied the waters of the Passaic many years.

In the vicinity of Passaic, the river was very attractive, bordered on both sides with large trees and luxuriant shrubbery, flowers and vines, resembling the river Rhine, and because of which Fred Oechslein, just from Germany, located his home on its bank. The stream was a favorite resort for boating parties, particularly on clear nights, when many well-filled, small boats, decorated with bunting and flags, and equipped with musical instruments, accompanying voices, presented a fairy-like scene. Boats, decorated and equipped, were in great demand, the most of them being furnished by Farrell Sheridan and his son John, who had reason to regret the days when pollution began. In addition, there were many tub races and regattas, the latter drawing thousands who lined the river's banks along the entire course, hundreds coming from distant points, making the day long to be remembered.

While summer sports abounded, winter was not far behind in furnishing opportunities for fun. In those days the river furnished good skating and other ice sports, while the disciples of Izaak Walton found pleasure fishing through holes in the ice. Skaters and fishermen not only from Passaic but from away back in the country, came here to enjoy this most wholesome sport. The various chemicals, which now pollute the river, prevent the formation of ice that was one to two feet thick in olden times.

The Passaic was once noted as the largest and best fresh water fishing stream in the State, as well as the greatest one for shad, immense quantities of which were caught by net. Farmers from Bloomfield, Montclair, and far beyond, came here regularly at certain seasons, spring or fall, bringing salt and barrels. After purchasing the shad, they would clean, pack in barrels and cart them home. Smaller fish such as bass and perch were caught at all seasons. Those caught in winter would immediately become and remain frozen, stiff as a board, but when placed in water, would limber up and the fish be as agile as ever. In addition to shad there were herring, chub and suckers caught by net, while bass, pickerel, white and yellow perch and sunfish were caught with hook on line.

Although the records, as well as tradition, fail to record the appearance of whale or shark in the Passaic river, they do record the appearance of any number of sturgeon of various sizes. In 1838 one was caught which was five feet in length and weighed 250 pounds. Three





weeks later one that was about seven feet long, weighing possibly five hundred pounds, was caught and rolled up on the bank near the present Eighth street bridge, but while his captors went for a wagon, he evidently rolled back into the river with the rope about his head. Two years later he was shot in the river near Brook avenue, still wearing his yoke.

Fishing rights were so valuable as to be rented out for a goodly rental. The law protected them and punished trespassers. The greatest of shad grounds was from the Wall street to the Eighth Street bridges, most of which was owned by the Van Iderstine family, who in and by various deeds and wills make special reference thereto.

All these pleasures and benefits, in addition to the advantages of good freight deliveries, show the great value of the river to this city, whereby, when the stream is purified, she will gain an advantage which will lead to her supremacy over municipalities not possessing them.

*Bridges*—For more than two hundred and thirty-five years past there has been some mode, either by ferry or bridge, for the public to cross the Passaic river, in the vicinity of the present bridge called and known for the past one hundred and seventy-five years as the County Bridge, receiving its name after the same had been erected by Bergen and Essex counties, previous to which it had been known as Precinct bridge, which had been erected by Acquackanonk township.

The first public crossing was by a rope ferry, called the "transporting place," which crossed the river from a point where Paulison avenue, if extended, would strike the river shore, to a point on the opposite shore, where ever since, and still is, a small dock. River Drive then ran close to the river. This rope ferry was established about 1682, and continued in use until the first bridge was built, which was previous to 1741, because in that year the people here complained of the expense to them of the bridge, and petitioned the legislature to pass a law providing that counties, and not townships alone, should erect and maintain such bridges. A law was thereupon passed providing that the expense of erecting such bridges should be borne equally by the county and township.

The original bridge, which tradition says was a crude affair, built simply for foot passengers only, was really what is known as a pontoon bridge, which was used until a real bridge was built in pursuance of an act passed June 28, 1766, entitled: "An act to empower the Justices and Freeholders of the Counties of Essex and Bergen to build a bridge over Passaick River, near the Dutch Church at Acquackanonk." There seems to be no record of what the bridge cost, the proceedings of the Essex county board of justices and freeholders not being in existence. By the minutes of the Bergen county board of May 11, 1768, we learn that "It is ordered that the sum of six pounds and eight pence be paid to Captain Wallen Van Winkle for iron work done to the bridge across



the Passaic River," and that on May 10, 1775, it was "ordered that the county collector pay unto Nicause Terhune the sum of nine shillings and six pence for work done by him on the Achuachenach Bridge."

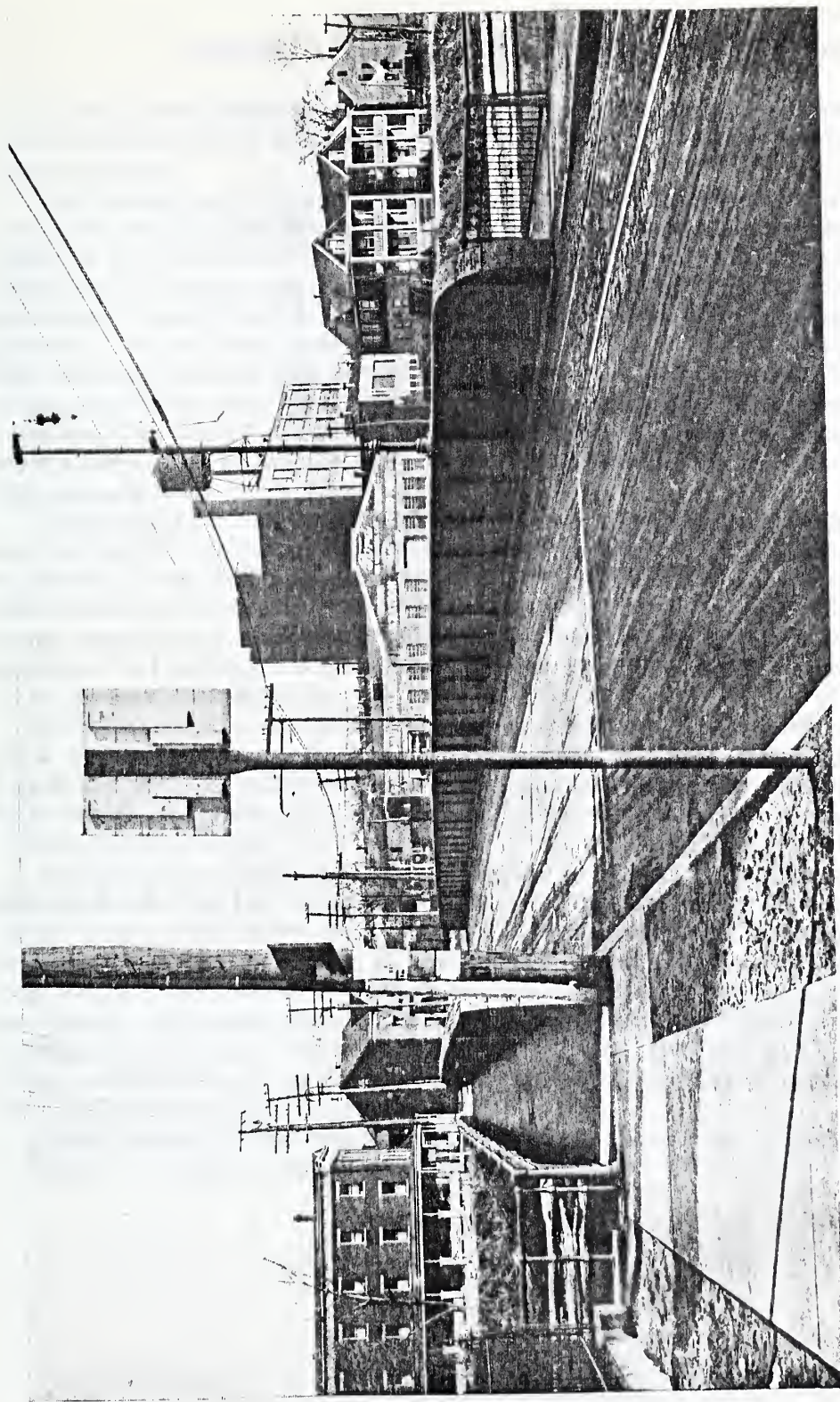
At a meeting of the board held May 15, 1776, as if to make ready for the army to cross, it was "ordered that John Richards, in conjunction with Michael Vreeland for the County of Essex cause and order the bridge at Achuachenunk be repaired in a thorough manner; and the said John Richard's order on the County Collector for half of the whole expense for repairing the said bridge shall be paid by the said County Collector." Little did this board know for whom and for what good purpose they were to have the bridge repaired. This was the famous Revolutionary Bridge, partially destroyed by American soldiers under the leadership of John H. Post to prevent the British from pursuing Washington, who had just crossed it. This was on November 21, 1776. It was subsequently repaired and continued to be used until destroyed by the ice, about 1781-82. This led to the passage of a special act of June 18, 1782, which provided that the bridge should be rebuilt on the site of the old ferry. A controversy arose over the site, lasting eleven years, resulting in the building of a new bridge about one hundred feet north of the present bridge in 1793. This second bridge was badly damaged by the ice in January, 1811, but immediately repaired and remained in use until 1835, when a new bridge was built, which lasted thirty years, and then replaced by one, and again in 1890. The present bridge was erected in 1904, but not completed until a year later, during which period a ferry was at first established, but when the length of time to build became apparent, temporary structures were erected, one for pedestrians and vehicles other than trolley cars, and one for them.

During Colonial and Revolutionary days, this being the only bridge across the Passaic river in its entire length from its mouth to Totowa, received all traffic between all points south and north, and gave to the place greater notoriety than it would otherwise have received, Acquackanonk bridge and landing being as well known as many cities are today. All vehicular traffic to and from the northern part of New York State destined to or from Philadelphia and beyond, passed over this bridge. In a letter to Governor Livingston of November 21, 1776, Washington heads it with "Acquackanonk Bridge."

*Other Bridges*—Previous to 1866 the only road from Passaic to Lodi was over the county bridge to and through Wallington. In that year the present Passaic street was laid out from Lodi through Garfield to the Passaic river, where it ended because there was no bridge. In 1867 an act was passed authorizing the construction of a toll bridge, by private parties, but it was never built. Instead, the two counties erected one in 1868, consisting of three spans, of wood. On September 11, 1871, one of these spans fell into the river, carrying with it a team of mules, wagon and driver, who was drowned.







WALL STREET BRIDGE, PASSAIC





In 1873 a new bridge of iron was erected which became known as the "Iron Bridge," doing good service until 1898, when it was replaced by the present one.

The Second street bridge was erected in 1895 by the Passaic Park Company and the New Jersey Electric Railway. The former was developing large tracts of land in Wallington, then known as Passaic Park, and the bridge was to provide direct access to mills in Dundee, avoiding the roundabout way up River drive and through Passaic street, Passaic. Its cost was justified by the sale of all lots of the company. The railway, however, was refused a franchise over Cooley avenue, and so far has never used the bridge. The bridge was given to the two counties. The county of Passaic, as well as the city of Passaic, granted permission to the railway to use so much of the bridge as was within their jurisdictions.

The want of a bridge at Union avenue was so apparent forty years ago that private parties contemplated the construction of a grand boulevard from Dover, direct to and over a bridge to be erected at this point, and thence to Jersey City; to be built and maintained by tolls. The route was laid out and commissioners were selected to negotiate all matters. But nothing was done until 1897, when the two counties erected the present structure.

The necessity of a foot bridge at Monroe street was felt as early as 1873, and led to the construction of one in 1875 by the East Passaic Land Company, but which two years later was so damaged by freshets as to require rebuilding, but in the great flood of 1882 the entire structure was carried away.

At this date and until 1914, Dundee Island lay in the river, on each side of which this foot bridge was built. In 1894 the owners of the island built a foot bridge from the foot of Monroe street, Passaic, to the island. From the island to the Garfield shore, foot travel was over the railroad trestle. This, however, did not answer the purpose, and the city of Passaic filled in the stream on its side of the island, permitting the passing of vehicles thereto and from. But this did not permit vehicular traffic to Garfield, which became so great that in 1912 the counties erected the present bridge.

Eighth Street bridge was erected in 1914 to shorten the distance to Newark and Jersey City from the Dundee mills.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### OLD ROADS, STAGE COACHES AND TAVERNS.

The first legally laid out road in the present city of Passaic was the one from Newark, laid March 26, 1707, and now forming River drive to and through Prospect street, to and through Lexington avenue and beyond. By a treaty made with the Indians February 5, 1756, and for their protection, a line was fixed three miles west of this, known as the *Great Road*, Weasel beyond which white men were not allowed to go.

Over this road passed British troops, pursuing Washington November 23-25, 1776, many of the American forces many times during the Revolution, and Lafayette then and in his subsequent visit to this country.

Acquackanonk church road, now Brook avenue, was laid out April 17, 1714, over an Indian trail. Sip's lane, now Van Houten avenue, was laid out November 17, 1724. Bloomfield avenue was laid in two parts, the first lying west of Sip's lane, February 1, 1803, and from Sip's lane to and through Grove terrace to Prospect street, May 26, 1805. Road to the Point (Park place) was laid July 30, 1804. The road one hundred feet in length from River drive to the entrance of the county bridge was laid May 11, 1835.

Peach Orchard road (Paulison and Hammond avenues and Peach street), was laid out March 10, 1845.

The centre line of Monroe street easterly from Lexington avenue to First street, and that line continued to Passaic river, marks the northerly limits of the Point Patent. A lane led to a mill at Vreeland's pond until January 5, 1854, when it was vacated and Madison street laid out.

River Drive north of its junction with the southerly end of Prospect street to and beyond the northerly limits of the city, was originally known as the Paterson and Hamburg Turnpike Company, which was incorporated by an act of the legislature of March 3, 1806, for ninety-nine years. The road was to extend from Acquackanonk Landing to Deckertown, "in as straight a direction as possible and as the nature of the ground permitted." In the centre not less than twenty-eight feet wide an artificial roadway was to be constructed, twenty feet of which was to be bedded or faced with stone, gravel, or other hard substance; eighteen feet was to provide ditches at the sides. The entire width was to be sixty-six feet, no part of which between Passaic and Paterson should rise more than three degrees. The company was permitted to charge toll and to erect toll houses, and required to erect mile posts every mile. The capital stock was fixed at \$80,000 in shares of \$25 each, to obtain which there were appointed from the present city of Passaic Abraham Ackerman and Garret Van Houten. There are no





deeds to the company for the land taken for the road, and the only information thereon is gathered partly from the account books of the company and tradition. For the strip of land extending from Prospect street northerly to within one hundred feet of Park place, there was paid the owner, Adrian Van Houten, \$29; the next strip reaching to Passaic street was donated by Jacob John Vreeland; the next strip, extending to Madison street, owned by said Abraham Ackerman, cost \$150; the next strip reaching to near Oak street, was donated by Jacob E. Vreeland; for the next strip extending to within one hundred and thirty-five feet of Harrison street, there was paid to the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church at Acquackanonk \$125; the next strip being the longest, reaching to within about one hundred and fifteen feet of Burgess place and owned part by Getty and part by James J. Post, cost the company \$123.75, and the last strip reaching the present northerly limits of the city was donated. These amounts are from the books of the company and were paid during 1809.

The first steps taken in the planning of this road were at a meeting held January 1, 1806, attended by gentlemen from the towns of Newark, Paterson, Acquackanonk, Pompton, Newfoundland and Hamburg, when the matter was discussed resulting in the appointment of a committee of four (of whom our Abraham Ackerman was one) to attend upon the legislature and secure the passage of an act incorporating a company, for the purposes then discussed. The road under discussion was to be only twenty-four feet wide, which Colonel Joseph Sharp, a builder, then a member of the legislature, increased to sixty-six feet. The road was constructed during 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809. Work having progressed from Hamburg southerly, it, the road, was not finished in Passaic until the late summer of 1809, being opened for business October 16. For this section a toll gate was established fifty feet south of Crooks avenue in (now) Clifton. Not one mile post was erected. Coaches with four horses made three weekly trips on alternate days in each direction over the entire route. There were relays of horses at Newfoundland. Deckertown was the limit of two days' travel.

In that year there was no established post office, nor postmaster, at any of the places on its route except Hamburg, and immediately after the completion of the road, its board of directors presented a petition to Gideon Granger, Post Master General of the United States, asking him to "favor them with the convenience of having a post office established at the villages of Acquackanonk," etc., giving as reasons: Growth of population and business and profit to the government. The petition further set forth the construction of the road and running of coaches, but made no bid for carrying the mails, because this was not thought of, as the mail drivers considered it a pleasure to receive and carry letters and papers to be left at the residences, or leading stores, along the route. From Passaic, stages ran along River road to Belleville,



and thence over the turnpike of that name to Paulus Hook (now Jersey City), and thence by boat across the Hudson to New York.

The road became popular at first, but the amount of tolls between Passaic and Paterson was not sufficient to keep it in repair, and in time became little more than a mud hole in wet, and a rutted road in dry weather. The coming of the Erie railroad in 1832 forced abandonment of the stages. In order to make the road a paying concern it became merged into the Paterson and New York Plank road. But in spite of good management, the debts of the road piled up so great that by November, 1860, they reached over \$60,000 with no funds with which to pay. Under foreclosure of mortgage the road was sold to Moses Taylor for \$35,000, May 6, 1861. The company being reorganized, he conveyed it back June 1, 1861. This, however, resulted in no benefit to the stockholders, and after ten more years of effort they practically abandoned it. In June 1876 all that portion of the road lying in Passaic county was conveyed to the county for \$2,500, and has since been a public road.

*Stage Coaches*—Travel to and from New York before the opening of the Paterson and New York Plank road in 1809, was by way of Newark. More than one line of stages ran from Paterson through Acquackanonk to Newark. One line ran direct to Paulus Hoeck by way of Belleville, where the river was crossed by a ferry, and thence over the meadow road. Another line went only to Newark where passengers were transferred at the old city tavern, to the many stages running to Powles Hook, and other points. In 1774 Abram Godwin began to run a stage twice a week from Paterson to Paulus Hoeck, which was announced as follows:

This is to acquaint the public that there is a stage waggon erected to go from the house of Abraham Godwin, near the Great Falls to Powles' Hook, through Schuyler's Swamp, twice a week—on Mondays and Thursdays; to set out on every Monday, at 8 o'clock in the morning and return the next day at ten o'clock in the morning from Powles' Hook, to said Godwin's, and likewise on Saturdays and Fridays at the aforesaid hours. The price of the stage is two shillings and nine pence up or down. By this road the distance from the Falls to Powles' Hook is only nineteen miles.

It is presumed that on Friday, November 22, 1776, Godwin drove his stage up to the old "tap house on the hill," where Washington had slept the night before, and allowed the General to inspect his stage wagon and four-in-hand. Godwin ran this stage many years. An old resident, speaking of this coach years ago, said:

It was a very fine coach, hung on straps, and comfortable to ride in. It had room inside for nine, and two more passengers could be accommodated on top. A rack for trunks and packages was fixed behind. It bowled along the turnpike drawn by four speedy horses. This was all before the railroads came.

The driver was a man of pleasant address, and well thought of by all. How





proud we boys were to grab up the mail bag when he threw it down in front of the tavern and run with it across to the postoffice, where its contents were emptied and sorted. He always promised us something when he came up the next time.

After the pouch, the only one carried, and still containing mail for other villages, had been returned to him, and he had watered his horses, and rested and warmed himself, the stage started off. Its going left the village corners again quiet for a day or two.

He made an interesting picture, this genial stage-driver, with his high beaver hat surmounting his cheery face, and his great muffler and brown overcoat. Strange to say, he died of consumption some years later, brought on by long exposure to severe and treacherous weather. I remember his being helped down from the seat one winter's day, when the thermometer was said to have been eighteen below, almost stiff with cold.

Noah Sexton was the next man to establish a line of stages, which ran twice a week, over the old route to Jersey City or Hoboken ferry. Upon the opening of the plank road he adopted that route which was three miles shorter, enabling him to make the round trip in one day. Peter Sloat and Samuel Pope, of Paterson, also ran stages to the Hoboken ferry daily. The plank road became the route for New York travel.

A direct stage between old Acquackanonk and Newark continued its trips several years after the railroad was opened, when they ceased. The railroad crippled the business on the Plank road, and it was not long before passengers abandoned entirely the old stage coach for the railroad. The freight and express business, however, was carried on, gradually becoming less and less, until finally the last—Banta's Passaic and New York Express, drew aside in 1864 and gave up the ghost.

In those early days travelling must have been difficult and tiresome. The old stage wagon was an ordinary box wagon without springs. In fair weather it was without cover. For storms, an improvised top was made of white canvas or "any old thing," supported by hoop-poles at the front, centre and rear. The dropping of a linchpin and the breaking of an old wooden axle were frequent occurrences, and a bath in the mud, something to be expected, and strange to say, not dreaded. The roads at the best were dusty and rough; full of holes and deep ruts, while in the spring they were so deep with mud as to be well nigh impassable. The men travellers usually got out, walked or helped the team to get through the hard places, much to the enjoyment of the fair ones, who sat still, as still as the jolting would permit, and got their money's worth. The following is a copy of an old stage notice:

**NEWARK AND PATERSON STAGE—NEW ARRANGEMENTS.**

A coach will hereafter leave Paterson Landing every morning at half past 8 o'clock, or as soon as the stage and cars arrive from Paterson. Fare 37½ cents.

JOHN FINE, Prop.

This stage ran between Ryerson's hotel and Newark; another line of stages ran to New York, and was managed by Patrick Coughlin.





OLD TAVERNS.

Is this the place where Chloë slept,  
In downy beds of blue and green?  
Dame Nature here no vigils kept,  
No cold, unfeeling guards were seen.  
The landlord goug'd in either eye,  
Here drains 'his bottle to the dregs,  
Or borrows Susan's pipe, while she  
Prepares the bacon and the eggs.

The first tavern was located on the west side of Main avenue on the hill, directly opposite the Revolutionary bridge across the Passaic river, adjoining the old church, and when first used as a tavern, was owned by the church. Originally it was designed as a place where those who came a long distance to church, could warm themselves and replenish their footstoves with live embers from a large wood fire which was there kept burning for that purpose. The place was first called the Noon-House. In those days services were held in the adjoining church morning and afternoon, with an hour's intermission for lunch. Those from a long distance repaired to this Noon-House to eat their lunch, read their Bibles, and discuss religious—and sometimes, other subjects. The church was not heated, it will be remembered, so that it became necessary to resort here to warm up. It was the duty of the sexton or the minister's hired man, to keep a good fire all day, starting it early in the morning so as to have the house heated sometimes as early as 7 o'clock in the morning, as the service usually commenced at 8 or 9 o'clock. It is said that the men often warmed themselves with something stronger than cold tea or coffee. When the church began to be heated the place was abandoned, as a Noon-House, and was rented out for a tavern. Just who the first keeper of this old tavern was, is unknown. James Staggs was there, and, later, it is recorded that the Freeholders met at the house of Mr. Blanchard, which is presumed to have been this place. The next man we find there is M. Van Winkle, who was well known throughout the county, and under him the place became a famous one.

Washington undoubtedly visited this place, as the same was headquarters for Lord Stirling during the Revolutionary war. Balls and parties were frequently held here.

It is related that the slaves were frequent visitors; having no money, as a usual thing, with which to purchase drinks, they brought farm produce in exchange for the same. One day, so the story goes, during a violent thunder storm, the roof of the old tavern was blown off, exposing to view in the old garret, great quantities of grain and vegetables. This time the darkies got all the rum they wanted in exchange for the labor in assisting to replace the roof. Van Winkle finally became tired of the business and advertised the property for sale as follows:

**FOR SALE**—The house and store adjoining where the subscriber lives, being



pleasantly situated near the church at Acquackanonk, a most excellent stand for a trader, mechanic or tavern-keeper, lying near the head of navigation of the Passaic, and on the much-frequented road from Newark to Paterson. MARINUS VAN WINKLE.

This advertisement appeared in the New Jersey and New York papers in 1796. At that time Van Winkle did not own the property, but had a lease of it from the church. Marinus Van Winkle was a private in Major McDonald's company in the French war of 1761. He died April 28, 1802, aged eighty-six years. He was grandson of the original Symon Jacobse. He did not get a purchaser and being obliged to remain there, he closed out his store, which he had been running and devoted himself to keeping tavern until the spring of 1798 when he sold out to a relative, Cornelius Van Winkle, who on May 1, of that year obtained a deed for the old tavern, the old parsonage adjoining known as Washington's headquarters, and the old Landing itself, which up to this time had been owned by the church. He paid £550 Sterling, for the entire property. On May 1, 1913, Van Winkle sold it to Peter Jackson for \$6,500.

The Washington Headquarters house adjoined the tavern on the south, to which it was annexed, and the two were connected by an outside porch on the second floor. The old house was originally the parsonage of the old church, and was used as such by Dominies Guiliam Bertholf, 1693-1724; Henricus Coens, 1725-1735; Johannes Van Driesen, 1735-1748; and David Marinus, 1752 to 1758, when the church purchased the house still standing at the north corner of Lexington avenue and Jackson streets. The original parsonage and tavern were destroyed by fire in 1877, much to the regret of all. The accompanying picture gives one a good idea of the old place.

For years the tavern was kept by Banta and by his name was most familiarly known. It was always called, however, by the name of the Tap-House on the hill. During its palmy days it was kept by Colonel Winans whose son was a constable here, Cornelius Huyler, Samuel and Elijah Britton and Uriah Van Riper. Van Riper had kept the old White Horse tavern, below the hill farther up the Main street, which he sold out to William L. Andruss at a good, round sum, and immediately removed to the Tap House and boasted that he would retain his old customers. In this he was mistaken, however, and the new venture proved disastrous. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, John Hedden, who also failed, and the old tavern was closed forever. Thereafter the bar room was used successively for religious purposes, by the Millerites, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian congregations. These last three churches began their growth in this old bar room.

On the whole this place was typical of the old style of tavern now seldom seen. If this were all it might be disposed of with a few words that would apply to other taverns. But this was not all. For beyond





and beneath all that has been said, this old tavern has a history beginning with the commencement of the life of our nation. In this old tavern was rocked the cradle of our liberties in which the infant Republic grew to lusty youth, and that youth to sturdy manhood, eager, ready and willing to preserve and protect those liberties.

Here it was that meetings were held in opposition to the odious "Stamp Act" of Parliament, presided over by Henry Garritse, a farmer then living at Clifton, and of which Lawyer Helme was the secretary. This act required everything to bear a stamp, even to writing paper; to avoid which tree bark was used. As a result of these meetings the first committee appointed in any of the Colonies, was selected here. This led to the appointment of committees in the other Colonies, whose good work resulted in the repeal of the act.

When the first rumble of the Revolution was heard, following Patrick Henry's "Taxation without representation is tyranny," meetings were held here to take action to support the Colonies in the struggle for independence. This action consisted not only of speeches, but in enlistments. Following the first call for troops of October 9, 1775, enough men came to this old tavern to enlist to almost make up one of the companies of the first battalion of eight companies. On October 20 they started on the expedition to Canada. This action of enlistment was repeated in January, 1776, in response to the call for raising a third battalion, which likewise went to Canada.

During the entire war this was headquarters here for some of the officers and men guarding the bridge spanning the river two hundred feet away.

In addition to the bridge guard, part of a company—forty men, with captain and three other officers—were on duty, partly as reinforcement to the bridge guard in cases of surprise or necessity, but mainly to police the neighborhood and protect the inhabitants.

Another famous, ancient tavern was one that stood on the easterly side of the turnpike, now River drive, directly opposite the old District school, whose pupils (particularly those who carried water from its pump which stood at one corner along the turnpike), became accustomed to the fights and arguments of drunken men. The year of its erection remains a mystery, but it was before the Revolutionary war. The building was in two parts, the main one being two and one-half storied, sixty feet along the road and twenty-five feet in depth, to which on the north end was attached a two-storied addition—the bar room—about twenty feet square. Of late years the premises had been vacant because condemned, and in June, 1915, the buildings were torn down.

Where now their mingled ruins lie,  
A temple once to Bacchus rose,  
Beneath whose roof aspiring high,  
Full many a guest forgot his woes.



So wrote Philip Freneau, New Jersey poet of the Revolution, of the tavern.

The church, in order to derive revenue from its lands, erected this tavern and leased it to one Frans Post, who carried on the business for nearly forty years. He was the proprietor during the Revolution, and, when Washington and his army of 3,500 men came here November 21, 1776, on their retreat before the British army, Generals Beal, Heard and Irvine, with their respective staff officers, put up at this tavern while Washington put up at the Blanchard House, a little below on the other side of the road. The latter had very small stable accommodations, while this place had ample room to accommodate the horses of the various officers.

The sheds and barns were filled that night with as fine a lot of horses as were ever assembled there. Generals Irvine and Heard possessed and rode splendid horses at this time, whose size, shape, beauty, courage and activity were allowed by the best judges, equal if not superior to any horse in the State. General Irvine named his horse Britannia and General Heard called his Wilkes. Both animals were born and raised in this State, on the farm of John Blanchard, Hanover, Morris county. Both animals were blooded stock, whose pedigrees were well known. They were the admiration of all horse lovers, not only because of their appearance, but because of their intelligence, particularly in the art of war, which added materially to their value.

These horses on the night in question, under the especial charge of Jolly Turpin, of Virginia, were placed with a score of other horses in the stables. During the night both animals were injured by kicks from other horses. Britannia sustained a broken leg and was killed. Wilkes eventually recovered from his injury and returned to service, which he continued to the end of the war without a mishap.

In addition to the stage coaches stopping here, the tavern became noted as one of the "whipping posts." In the early days masters were given power and authority to whip their slaves as punishment for disobedience, lying, stealing, drunkenness and minor misdemeanors. At first these whippings were conducted in as quiet a way as possible, but in process of time a public whipping post was established, generally at a tavern, in open view, in order to make the culprit suffer the humiliation of a public whipping, it was said, but as these affairs drew crowds it is presumed they were so held for the pecuniary benefit of the tavern keeper, who catered to the liquid wants of the spectators who came in large numbers to witness the whippings inflicted almost entirely upon colored persons. The culprit would be tied to a post set up at this place in the wagon shed and upon his bare back the lash would be applied until he cried for mercy, which was seldom uttered by the younger, sturdy ones, who were often heard to exclaim, "Go ahead. You can't kill this nigger."





At this time taverns were not closed on Sunday, which was the best day of the week for business. More liquor was sold than upon any other day. The farmers drove to church then in great numbers, and after the men had placed their women folks safely in church, they had to look after their teams, which with many took so long that they concluded not to go to service, as it was so late and they did not wish to disturb the worshippers, so what more natural than to go to the tavern and meet others who were likewise solicitous about non-interruption of the service, with whom, and a little toddy, they managed to while away the time until the service was over.

Occasionally the men would talk horse and to prove their assertion that one fellow's horse could beat the other fellow's mare, the crowd would cross the river and have it out on the half-mile track just across the bridge, and which for years was considered the best piece of road anywhere around. Of course the race was finished in time for the men to return to the church for the women.

The first elections under our village government were held here, and in the proceedings taken by the Dundee Manufacturing Company to condemn certain lands for the canal this was the meeting place of the commissioners, as it was also for the commissioners of appeal in cases of taxation.

Following the Revolution and for sixty years thereafter the tavern did a large business, but with the coming of the Erie Railroad its death knell was sounded, which eventually put an end to shipping by water, and less and less became the tavern's business.

While other places are preserving their Colonial and Revolutionary houses we are totally indifferent to their destruction. This will no doubt continue until we wake up only to find, however, that we are too late.

From an old book of tavern accounts, kept in the last century, in New Jersey, we find that cider sold for a shilling a pint; beer, six cents a mug, and a gill of spirits, three cents. It is astonishing, in reading old papers, records and documents, to find what great quantities of liquor were used, and upon all occasions, too. Even religious conventions, as well as political and mechanical pursuits, required strong drink to help matters along.

On March 29, 1781, the following rates were established by the court of quarter sessions:

	£	S	P
A dinner extraordinary .....		2.	6
Common do .....		2.	
Breakfast .....		2.	
Supper extraordinary .....		2.	6
Common do .....		1.	6
1 Gill of good West India Rum .....			9
Quart Good Cider .....			6
" " Beer .....			6
Night's Lodging .....			6
Good fresh hay for horse, per night.....	1.		6





Common salt for horse, per night.....	1.	
Good pasture for horse, per night.....		9
1 quart Oats and other grain in proportion		2½

In 1820, Thomas Linford opened a tavern in what had been for many years the dwelling house of Harmonis Vreeland, now owned and used by John J. O’Leary Company, on Bloomfield avenue, near the limits of the city. But business did not warrant a tavern there and after struggling along for two years, Linford abandoned the place and moved to Michigan. Between 1845 and 1850 Cornelius Huyler opened a tavern at the present No. 576 Main avenue, but abandoned it within a year to accept the position of station master for the Erie, whose depot, or waiting room was next door in No. 578 Main avenue.

Benjamin Force kept a tavern for several years in the store afterwards kept by John Kip. The old building may still be seen on River Drive, and is a reminder of those far-off days when the building itself was considered something more than ordinary. It is of brick, scarcely more than one story in height with windows on the floor above the store, so small as to be useful for little more than ventilators. And yet this little garret was supposed to accommodate belated travelers who, perhaps, for want of something better, considered themselves fortunate and even felt grateful for a bed-chamber whose ceiling was the bare shingles of the roof.

A trial of the speed of some fast horses was indulged in on the River road, while the dominie was preaching in the old church nearly opposite the tavern. And this reminds us of the fact that men and boys were in those days no more inclined to attend church than they are now.

There were public whippings at this old tavern, too. One case in point is that of two slaves of John Ackerman, who, after a trial for stealing chickens, were sentenced to receive twenty lashes each. To make the punishment more severe, rum was rubbed over the backs of the culprits at the end of every ten lashes. One of the darkeys stoutly refused the application of the liquor, when his master cried out to whip him until he cried for rum. This settled it for the darkey, who cried “rum,” and submitted to the application of the liquor.

When Force retired business was never resumed at his old stand.



## CHAPTER XVII.

### FIRST LAWYERS AND EARLY PHYSICIANS.

The first lawyer of this vicinity was Nehemiah Wade, who was admitted to the bar in 1784, and became very prominent as a pleader.

Benjamin Helme was the next lawyer here of whom we have any knowledge. He resided on the site of the present No. 16-18 Lexington avenue during the Revolution, when he was a student in the office of (afterwards) Secretary of State of the United States Frelinghuysen, and was admitted to the bar after the close of that war in 1788. He was the attorney for Eliza Neal, widow of General Daniel Neal (who was killed in the battle of Princeton), in her claim for damages inflicted by the British during the war.

Elias Van Arsdale, admitted to the bar in 1795, acted as attorney and counsel, in matters pertaining to the settlements of the larger estates hereabouts, and also served many times as executor, of whom he was one in the large estate of Abraham Ackerman, who was considered the wealthiest man here for fifty years after the Revolution.

John P. Jackson, a much noted man throughout the State, was born in the house still standing at 150 River Drive, where he began to practise in 1827, the year of his admission to the bar. He did not remain long, but went to Newark where he found a wider field.

Smith Scudder, admitted to the bar in 1803, was an uncle of Dr. Benjamin R. Scudder, with whom he lived at the north corner of Westervelt Place and River drive. He was among the last of the old English sergeants at law, receiving his appointment in 1828. He followed commercial law, acting for the many merchants here at the Landing. He died in 1829.

The year following, James Speer, who resided in a small stone house which stood near the entrance to the present East Ridgelawn Cemetery, and who was admitted to the bar in 1830, opened an office at the present No. 159 River drive. He was prepared for college at the old Acquackanonk Academy, the name applied to the advanced courses of the ancient district school, at a time when the building was a two-storied affair. He graduated from Princeton in 1827. His ability soon became recognized by members of the bar, who were successful in having him appointed as judge of the New Jersey Court of Appeals, where he served from 1845 to 1851, during which and for about one year, he served as presiding judge of Passaic Common Pleas Court.

Peter D. Froeligh was admitted to the bar in 1849, and hung out his shingle in the former office of Judge Speer, who had been his tutor, but had removed to Paterson. Froeligh was the son of Dominie Froeligh, who had committed suicide when the boy was an infant in arms. He





managed to earn a fair living from office practise entirely, as he was far from being a successful trial lawyer.

After Froeligh's death, about 1862, there seems to have been no resident lawyer here until around 1865, when George F. Kettell, and two years later, Peter Q. Eckerson, New York lawyers, settled, but neither of whom engaged in practise here. Mr. Eckerson, strange to say, became the first collector of the village—1869, and not its attorney.

In 1868 Lawyer Jared S. Torrence came here to reside only. He also was a practising lawyer in New York.

The first village lawyer was Albert Comstock, of Paterson, appointed July 19, 1869, and served until May 10, 1870, when he was re-appointed, serving until May 29, 1871, and then removed on the charge of being in league with a certain councilman to control the affairs of the village.

On the last mentioned date, John Hopper, also of Paterson, was engaged to continue the case of O'Neill against the village, then pending in the Supreme Court. On June 5, a question as to the legality of street assessments was referred to another Paterson lawyer, Zebulon M. Ward. On June 19, 1871, Mr. Torrence was appointed, but did little work because of ill health. In fact, when the city purchased the property where the municipal building now stands, in May, 1872, he was too feeble to search the title and prepare the papers, which the village then engaged Mr. Hopper to perform.

On May 22, 1872, Thomas M. Moore received the appointment, which he held until July 22—two months, and resigned, because, finding he could not obtain a living practise in Passaic, he had gone to Newark, and obtained a clerkship in an office there, whose duties took his daylight hours. On August 5, 1872, an unknown George A. Clement was nominated, but never confirmed because the council wanted Mr. Moore, with whom arrangements were made in January, 1873, to give evenings to city business, and he was re-appointed. The village was fortunate in securing so competent a man as Mr. Moore, who prepared the charter of the city, and took charge of all legal matters pertaining to the passing from village to city government. He was the legal pathfinder for the city, preparing all resolutions, ordinances, contracts and other documents, whose forms are followed to this day. In this work he showed a brilliant mind.

Robert S. Durling, a bachelor about forty years of age, located here in 1874, with offices upstairs over Moore's offices. But, aside from serving as attorney in several famous horse cases, he had little to do, as was seen by his visits to the "Eel Pot," where he would lounge day after day, gossiping with others who had no more to do than he. He removed to the Far West about 1875, where he committed suicide November 13, 1876.

James E. Stoutenburgh, another bachelor, from Sussex county, whence Durling had come, commenced the practise of law July 1, 1875,



which he continued until his death. He also was city attorney alternately with Mr. Moore.

Henry K. Coddington, a former New York lawyer, and a cousin of Mr. Moore, with whom he served one year's clerkship, opened an office in the Hobart building, November 1, 1875. His only clerk and student was George P. Rust, who at the end of four years was admitted to the bar in 1882, and immediately opened his law office at the present No. 8 Bloomfield avenue. In order to increase his business, he became a justice of the peace, and in time served for many terms as city attorney. He was not brilliant, but a slow, plodding, careful lawyer, a hard, patient worker, serving his clients most faithfully. He became wealthy, and was one of Passaic's leading men, cut off in 1916, in his prime, greatly lamented.

William F. Gaston began practising here immediately after his admission to the bar in June, 1877. He later served one term as assemblyman. Mr. Gaston is still in harness after so many years of hard work, during which he has gained the confidence of the entire community, in whose esteem no man stands higher today. He is a forceful, logical speaker, commanding and holding the attention of his hearers from first to last.

William W. Scott, the editor, is the last of the coterie of older lawyers, and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court at November term, 1877, when he began and still continues the practise of law.

Walter Kip was admitted to the bar in 1878, and shortly after began practice, dividing his time between here and Jersey City. He served one term as legal adviser of our city in 1894.

Mr. John E. Ackerman, who had studied with William F. Gaston, was admitted in 1882.

The next in order of admission was A. Stearns Kilgour, who had studied in the office of Thomas M. Moore (which turned out more lawyers than all of the other offices combined), and was admitted at the June term, 1892. He soon became popular and began a prosperous career, becoming city counsel in 1893. But, unfortunately, he was stricken with a fatal malady and died in 1894.

William W. Watson, now judge of the County Courts, was admitted at November term, 1892, and at once began practice. He was the first judge of the District Court in Passaic. He has always shown a marked aptitude for the profession. Five years after he became a lawyer, his brother, Robert, was admitted. They formed a partnership, which still exists.

James A. Sullivan was admitted to the bar at the February term, 1893, and shortly thereafter opened his office in the News building. Adrian D., brother to James, was admitted at the June term, 1895, and immediately opened an office on Third street. Being ambitious, he forged ahead and soon reached the front ranks, which he still retains.





Albert O. Miller, Jr., who studied with Mr. Moore, was admitted at the June term, 1895, and began at once active practice, and the tutoring of Harry Meyers, who a year later was also admitted. They immediately formed a partnership that still exists.

Police Justice Thomas P. Costello, who was admitted in 1899, ranks among the younger members of the bar, scores of whom soon followed him in rapid succession in keeping with the rapid growth of the city then developing.

#### EARLY PHYSICIANS.

There was no practicing doctor here for more than half a century after the first settlement. Many critical and also chronic cases of sickness were attended to by the dominie of the old church. What little was known in the art of healing was taught young candidates for the ministry, who made good use of their knowledge, without fee or reward. The majority of people felt that the duties of a physician properly belonged to ministers, who, if able to cure souls, should be prepared to save bodies as well, and failed to draw any line of distinction between the two professions.

The first physician of whom we have any knowledge was Jacob Arents, who came to this country from Germany about 1707, settling at Perth Amboy, whence he removed to Delawanna, thence to Passaic where in the old church yard may still be seen the tombstone of one of his grandchildren, which is inscribed: "Daniel Arants, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Arants. Died December 30, 1738, aged nine days." The Doctor and many of his descendants, were buried in his plot, which for the past half century has been occupied by a large water closet.

The first resident physician of Passaic of whom there is knowledge, was Dr. John De Vausnee (sometimes called De Vaunce), who settled here in 1738, boarding in the family of Dirk Vreeland, who resided at the present southwest corner of River drive and Brook avenue. On May 29, 1744, he married Hester Vreeland, and they began housekeeping in a stone house, nearly opposite, between the River drive and Passaic river. He had a general practice over a large territory, where he was known as "the French doctor." Among his patients was Michael Enoch Vreeland, a man of considerable wealth, who resided at the present Athenia.

The following receipt is in the doctor's handwriting: "onfangen Van michel Enaaec Vriland de Summ Van 16 Scelinge, de Vanalle Requeninge tot desse dage, de 13 Juny 1759. Doctor Joannes De Vausnee," which translated from the mixture of Dutch, French and English, reads: "Received from Michael Enoch Vreeland the sum of 16 shillings, the amount of my demand of this day, the 13th of June, 1759."

Dr. De Vausnee died about 1760, being succeeded by Dr. Abiatha Millard, who purchased his old home and continued a general practice





of medicine, but for only about six years, and then removed to Newark, because no doctor was needed in Acquackanonk.

The following notice appeared in the *New York Journal and General Advertiser*, of May 17, 1767:

**FOR SALE**—The House and lots of land formerly belonging to the French Dr. John DeVausnee now the property of Dr. Abiatha Millard situate in Aquacanack, on the west side Passaick river; A house with 3 rooms on a floor, and fireplace in each, a good garden, well and chair house, together with a convenient wharf, nigh the door, for any boat of 20 tons or under to come to. The lot contains about half an acre.

Dr. John Garritse was probably the best known doctor hereabouts. The following is a copy of one of his old bills:

JACOB JO. VREELAND		
To DOCT. JOHN GARRITTSE,		Dr.
To the amount of yr account up To the 8th of November, 1802,...		£2-19-2
Since the above was drawn .....		0- 3-0
Errors excepted .....		
		3 -2-2

Dr. Garritse resided in a stone house on the east side of Dundee drive, in the city of Garfield, about one hundred yards north of Out-water lane. The building was razed several years ago, and nothing remains to show the location of the house wherein the British officers took quarters in their pursuit of the American army in November, 1776, but a hole in the ground indicating the cellar.

Contemporaneous with Dr. Garritse was a Dr. Roche, who resided on the Weasel road, marrying into the Vreeland family. Little is known of him. But see History of Clifton in this work.

Dr. Thomas Steele, of Belleville, was well and favorably known here about this period. He was more of a consulting physician, called upon by the resident doctor to assist in serious cases.

Dr. Cora Osborn practised here from 1814 to 1819. He resided on the west side of River drive, between Van Houten and Brook avenues. Practising here but five years, he did not become so extensively known hereabouts.

The most famous of all the physicians of those early days was Dr. Benjamin R. Scudder, who came here about 1769. He lived in a house which stood immediately south of and adjoining the Erie railroad, on the west side of River drive, where he practised until his death in 1819. He was buried in the old church yard. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

When on this earth I did remain,  
Was filled with sorrow, grief and pain.  
Adieu! my friends! May you be wise!  
We'll meet again beyond the skies.

He died at the age of only fifty-six. His daughter, Susan, married Rev. Peter D. Froeligh, pastor of the Seceder Church, who committed suicide in 1828. The house was destroyed by fire in 1860.



This Scudder family, from whom Dr. Scudder descended, is one of the most noted in the annals of our country. Among the men are some of the most prominent soldiers, statesmen, doctors and ministers that ever went forth from our state. The family descended from Thomas Scudder, known as old Goodman Scudder, who left London and came to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1635. He died there in 1658. He had a son John, who removed to Southold in 1651, thence to Huntington, Long Island, in 1657, and before 1660 to Newton, Long Island. This John had a son, John. The latter John removed to Westfield, New Jersey, in 1698. He married Mary Peck. He died January 15, 1738. He left a son Richard, who died December 24, 1785. Richard married Rebecca Stites, of Scotch Plains, and had among other children, Benjamin R., the subject of this sketch.

Of this Scudder family, Edward W. Scudder was a justice of the Supreme Court of our State; Joseph Scudder was a captain in the French War; Samuel was a private therein, taken prisoner, confined in a prison ship, and never heard from; John and William Scudder served through the Revolution; Isaac W. and Mansfield were prominent lawyers of this State; Henry J. was a well known lawyer of New York; Nathaniel Scudder was lieutenant in the First Regiment of Monmouth in the Revolution, was a member of the Committee of Safety, and was several times elected to the assembly. In 1777 he was selected to represent the State in the national Congress. He, with Dr. Witherspoon, signed the articles of confederation on the part of New Jersey. He served in the battle of Monmouth, and was killed at the battle of Black Point, near Shrewsbury, October 16, 1781. He was buried in the old Tennent church graveyard. Upon his tombstone is inscribed: "Hon. Nathaniel Scudder, who fell in defense of his country, October 16, 1781, aged 48 years."

John Scudder was a writer of some note, and a missionary to India. His sons, Henry and Silas and John, were missionaries to Arcot, India. Three other sons, Ezekiel, Jared and William, went to Vellore, India.

A Dr. Beasley, of Trenton, it is said, practised here for a short time after Dr. Scudder's death, but did not remain long.

In 1820, Dr. Lambert Sythoff settled here. His house stood about in the roadway of the present Pennington avenue. In addition to his duties as a physician, he conducted a private classical school; failing in that, he became teacher of the old district school near the old church. He finally gave up business here, went to Paterson, and thence to Pompton, where he resumed his practise, and became very successful.

While Dr. Sythoff was practising here, Dr. William W. Colfax came from Pompton in the year 1821, and opened his office in a house standing in what is now a roadway, Passaic avenue, where it joins Main avenue. The old house was removed to make way for the street, and moved up to No. 682 Main avenue. Dr. Colfax was the son





of General William Colfax, commander of Washington's Life Guards. His mother was Hester, daughter of Casparus Schuyler, of the famous Schuyler family. General Colfax had three sons, Schuyler, the father of Vice-President Colfax, George W., and the Doctor. Dr. Colfax did not remain here long. His wife and infant child died here July 23, 1823. The wife was only twenty-three years of age. Soon after her death, the Doctor returned to Pompton, where he resumed his practise until a few years before his death, when he retired to engage in the pastime of looking after the interests of the family estate, which was large.

Dr. Samuel W. Pratt was the next man to open a doctor's shop in Acquackanonk, which he did in the house next to the one formerly occupied by Dr. Colfax, whom he succeeded about 1824. He remained here several years and acquired a good practise.

Dr. Zabriskie came here about the time that A. O. Zabriskie (afterwards Chancellor of the State), settled at Hackensack in 1830. The Doctor occupied the second floor of the old Cleveland house, near Pennington avenue. He was not successful, and left after trying hard for two years, and went to New York, where his family died during the prevalence of the cholera there in 1832. He afterwards became successful in Jersey City.

Dr. Garret Terhune succeeded Dr. Pratt in 1829. Dr. Terhune was born in Hackensack in 1801. He studied under Dr. Sythoff, above spoken of, and was graduated from Rutgers Medical College in 1827, and first practised at Hackensack, until he came here in 1829, and continued his practise until his death July 2, 1886. His son, Richard A., succeeded his father.

This, we believe, completes the list of the old doctors of Acquackanonk.

Seventy years ago, being sick was not such a luxury as it is today, judging by the bill of Dr. Garret Terhune, grandfather of our Dr. Percy Terhune.

Acquackanonk, Sept. 24, 1850.

ESTATE OF JOHN A. ACKERMAN.

	To GARRET TERHUNE	Dr.
1850.		
Apr. 30—To 2 visits and medicines .....		\$ 1.
May 1-31—To 57 visits and medicines .....		29.
June 1-19—To 28 visits and medicines.....		13.50
		<hr/>
		\$43.50

Visits were charged for at fifty cents each, and included all medicines. This was before the days of drug stores, where as a rule medicines cost more than the visits.

Down to the Civil War days it was customary to hire a messenger to notify friends of a death in the family. Mails were not to be depended on. Upon the death of John A. Ackerman, who resided on Dundee,



a messenger was sent to Jersey City to notify friends, as appears by the following receipt:

Acquackanonk, June 21, 1850.

Received of John J. Ackerman the sum of one dollar in full for expenses in going to Bergen to inform friends of the death of his Father.

HENRY MERSELIS.

This messenger was none other than "Boss Eel," who without authority assumed the name "Marsellus."

#### THE OLD SEXTON.

Beneath my hand what numerous crowds retire—  
By the cold turf for ages, now, oppressed!  
Millions have fallen and millions must expire  
Doom'd by the impartial God to endless rest.

In the natural order of events, undertakers would follow doctors. but in those early days undertakers, as a rule, were unknown, the sexton of the church acting in that capacity. Among some of the earlier sextons of the old church was Sambo, a colored man in the employ of the Terhune family, who had at his disposal a hearse, which was the property of the church. It was the custom in the event of a death for the sexton to go about from house to house announcing the death, and inviting people to attend the funeral. The hearse, as before stated, was the property of the church, and was kept in a small shed nearby. The one used by the old church is still standing.

David A. Westervelt, of Clifton grist mill fame, was not only sexton and undertaker, but also chorister of the church, which he filled to the utmost satisfaction for many years. He died in 1875, at the age of seventy-six years. Samuel G. W. Couenhoven succeeded him, and was one of the most faithful the church ever had.

Coffins were usually homemade affairs, although in some cases they were made by cabinet makers. John P. Carroll made coffins here for many a year, and had his show window in a small frame building on the east side of Prospect street, near Park place.

The doctors were skillful fellows, or the inhabitants a hardy lot between the years 1737 and 1795, when the average yearly deaths was less than two, judging by the tombstones in the old church yard, and during the next thirty years was only six. The year 1829 was a harvest for the undertaker-sexton, who had nineteen funerals. Business was more brisk between 1830 and 1855, when the average was fifteen. But the subject becoming too ghoulish, had better be dropped right here, even though abruptly.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### OLD STORES, MERCHANTS AND MECHANICS.

Sprung from a race that long had till'd the soil,  
And first disrobed it of its native trees;  
He wished to heir their lands, but not their toil,  
And thought the ploughman's life, no life of ease:—  
" 'Tis wrong (said he) these pretty hands to wound  
With felling oaks, or delving in the ground;  
I, who at least, have forty pounds in cash  
And in a country store might cut a dash.  
And why should I, these barren fields (he said)  
I, who have learned to cypher, write and read,  
These fields that shrubs, and weeds and brambles bear  
That pay me not, and only bring me care."

John Low succeeded Robert Drummond in the business at the old store. He was the son of Cornelius Low, of Belleville, near Newark, where the family have always taken an active part in the affairs of that village. He seems to have purchased this property of Robert Drummond, and continued the store business until about 1785, when he sold out to Samuel Seeley, of New York. Low, like Drummond, had made money during his stay here, but Seeley did not do so well, and, after experimenting five years, sold out to Abraham Ackerman, a man who was considered the prince of merchants in this locality.

Abraham Ackerman, who was called and known by the name of "Brom" Ackerman, was born on the Pollifly road in Bergen county, in 1752, in an old house which stood on the east side of the road, at the foot of the hill, about one hundred yards east of the present dwelling of Abraham A. Ackerman. He came here in the prime of life, and with little means, but being not only an industrious and frugal man, but possessing a remarkably indomitable will, soon became a rich man. Like the Astors of New York, he believed that there was money in real estate, and began to buy right and left, the result of which was, he soon became a great land-owner. He bought as an investment and not for speculative purposes, and held on to nearly all of his purchases until his death.

He first resided in the old Drummond house, in which he had his store, but as he began to make money, he purchased the stone house which stood near the site of the present building of the Young Men's Christian Association on Lexington avenue. On the site of the old store-house, he erected the present brick building, a view of which is herewith presented. His business increasing, and the bridge having been moved farther south, he took possession of the land lying along the river, at about the entrance to the present bridge, upon which he erected a dwelling and store, where he conducted another place of business. For a few years he took John M. Ryerson into partnership, but finally sold out to him. At his death, his executors conveyed the first named property to





John Kip, who also succeeded to the business at that place. Ryerson took Aaron Van Houten into partnership, and they conducted business at the new stand. The following is a copy of an original bill in the possession of the writer, which is interesting, as it shows the high prices paid for dry goods in those "good old times" that we hear so much about now:

MR. JEREMIAH BUSKIRK,		TO RYERSON & VAN HOUTEN,		Dr.		
				£.	S.	D.
1813.						
June 25	To	½ Bush lime 7s. Spirits, 6d.....		7		6
July 14	"	1 Soup dish 5s. Doz. plates 9s. 6d.....		14		6
	"	1 wash bowl .....		1		3
Nov. 22	"	1 bush salt 11s. Spirits 6d.....		11		6
Dec. 1	"	½ " " .....		5		0
24	"	7¾ yds calico @ 4s. ....	1	11		0
	"	8 yds black muslin @ 6s. 6d.....	2	12		0
	"	4 skeins silk .....		4		0
	"	28 lb sugar @ 18s. ....	3	12		0
1814.						
Jany 2	"	3 yds check @ 8s. ....	1	4		0
Mch 19	"	freight 3 loads House @ 8s.....	1	4		0
June 8	"	freight, 1 barrel soap .....		1		6
June 25	"	101 Bunches straw .....		8		0
	"	1 Side board 8s. Clock 6s.....		14		
	"	Looking glass 2s. 1 chest 1s.....		3		
				13	7	9

It will be noticed that spirits and furniture were cheap, while sugar was selling for more than fifty cents a pound.

Ackerman built extensive docks to accommodate a line of boats owned by him, plying between here and New York City. At one time or another he owned nearly all the land lying between Passaic and Madison streets, the Canal and Grove streets, besides dock lots along the river, land in Paterson, and several farms. He also loaned considerable money on mortgage. He was the prime mover and leader among those who seceded from the Old Church in 1825, and who were known as Seceders. At his own expense, it is said, he erected for them a church upon his own land, and gave the property to the church, towards which he contributed generously and gladly during the remainder of his life, which, unfortunately for the church, was short, as he died on February 28, 1828, living only about three years to enjoy his gift. Ackerman was an unsociable man, had few friends, and, perhaps, because of jealousy on the part of his neighbors at his phenomenal success, and of his tyrannical manner, he had many enemies. He held his own with a firm hand, and died a rich man. His death followed by ten days that of his beloved pastor, Rev. Peter D. Froeligh, who had committed suicide.

Ackerman had a competitor, Robert Colfax, who opened a store opposite Ackerman's store. Colfax, however, did not succeed very well, and soon gave up business here and went to Pompton, where he achieved success in various enterprises in which he there engaged. Col-



fax was of the Colfax family from which Schuyler Colfax, Vice-President of the United States, sprang.

John Kip was succeeded by his sons, Nicholas and Walling, who continued the business until the death of Nicholas some forty-five years ago.

Ryerson and Van Houten sold out to Peter Jackson. Peter Jackson had the push and enterprise, but lacked the saving trait. He could make money, but could not hold on to it like Ackerman, of whom he was a pattern. His first purchase here was the old Landing itself, upon which he erected a row of frame buildings, in one end of which, at the entrance of the bridge, he had his store. He also ran boats to New York. Not content with village property, he bought large farms, which he cultivated, besides engaging in the timber and wood business. He it was who erected the house known for years as Ryerson's Hotel, on lower Main avenue, opposite the frame row referred to. In this house he lived in fine style, the front of which, now occupied by bill boards, was his garden and lawn, in which he took particular pride, and which was envied by all the neighborhood. He also was considered a rich man, but a panic swept all away, and he left Passaic a poor man, going to Newark, where he died. Besides his business here, he had a store and grist mill at Pompton.

A son of Peter Jackson was John P., born here, who became president of the United Railways of New Jersey, and who had the reputation of being the smartest railroad manager in the country. He had acquired his business training here in his father's old store. He studied law with Theodore Frelinghuysen (who ran for Vice-President with Henry Clay); was an assemblyman from Essex county, and city clerk of Newark.

Among Peter's grandchildren were: F. Wolcott Jackson, superintendent of the United Railroads of New Jersey; General Joseph Jackson, of Newark; and Schuyler B. Jackson, ex-speaker of the New Jersey Assembly.

Peter Jackson was the first regularly appointed postmaster for Acquackanonk, receiving his appointment in 1814. He went to Newark in 1830. Andrew Parsons purchased his property here at sheriff's sale in the latter year, and conducted the business until 1840, when he sold out to Richard Morrell and John A. Post, who soon abandoned the store and engaged in the lumber business. Richard Morrell went to Jersey City and Post took David I. Anderson as partner.

Adolph Van Winkle and James Brinkerhoff also had a store at the bridge.

Abraham Zabriskie, who lived at the present Garfield, had a store on lower River Drive, and in addition thereto had a grist mill, and ran a line of boats on the river, in all which he made a success until his "evil day" came, when he lost nearly all and was obliged to retire. In his day





there was a reef in the Passaic river at Delawanna, which seriously impeded the navigation of that stream. To improve this, Zabriskie spent fifty thousand dollars, it is said, all to no purpose. This ruined him.

Adrian Van Houten kept a general store at Market Square, in a building that stood then right in the present River Drive, at the junction of Prospect street. Adjoining on the west was an old stone house in which he resided. The following anecdote is related of this place: One day a white man stopped at the store to buy some crackers and cheese to eat. He displayed a large quantity of fifty cent silver pieces, enough to cover the counter. He dropped one. An old woman picked it up and was told she might keep it, which she did, and the man departed and went to the hotel a short distance below, where he soon got drunk, and returned to Van Houten's when the store was being closed for the night, which was very stormy and cold, it being in the middle of winter. The man begged so piteously for a night's lodging and offered to pay so well for it that he was taken in the house, and assigned to a room, where he retired. Toward morning, Van Houten was aroused from his slumber by a loud knocking at the door. Upon enquiring who was there, he was told it was the sheriff from Sussex county, who said that the Newton Bank had been robbed and that the robber was in that house. The sheriff was let in, and went to the lodger's room but upon entering found it empty. The stranger had gone without saying good-bye.

Malancthon S. Wickware, who was the regular schoolmaster of the old district school, also had a store, in addition to which he gave some of his time to the wood and timber business. He made no money and, it is said, he left Passaic a poor man. He was buried in the old churchyard.

Cornelius Vreeland had a store just north of the Revolutionary Bridge, but did not succeed.

Vanderbeek and Andruss had their store upon the site of Speer's wine warehouse on Main avenue. Finding the business insufficient to support both, Andruss withdrew to open a tavern, but Vanderbeek continued it until he was elected sheriff in 1848.

Daniel Edsall had a store further up the street, at the same time that David Campbell had his at Market Square.

Among the earliest stores was that of James Stagg, corner Howe avenue and Prospect street, where, an old resident has said, he had seen "Coss" selling snuff to the negro wenches, who used large quantities of it upon their teeth, and some of them ate it, and Coss would put a penny on one scale and the snuff in the other and give them the weight of the big copper coin as a pennyworth.

Prospect street was called the back lane, in contradistinction to the front lane, which was our Main avenue. The back lane was used by the



farmers principally, although it was devoted to business to a certain extent. A select school stood just north of Park place. Samuel Van Saun had a cabinet-maker's shop a little below, while nearly opposite, Samuel G. W. Couenhoven, the sexton, had his tailor shop. John Nutley had a bakery on the northeast side of the old lane, on the site now occupied by Pennington avenue. At the corner of the railroad, on the east side, was the butcher shop of William I. Spear who, in addition to his shop, ran a wagon certain days of the week around the country, supplying his country customers from his wagon. Then came the Van Houten and Campbell stores, above referred to. A wheelwright shop stood for years between River drive and the river, at the junction of that drive and Prospect street; adjoining was a cluster of three or four houses, which went by the name of Sebastapol. Just below was an old established blacksmith shop. Attached to the house adjoining the old school was the shoemaker shop of John I. Spear, of whom unruly scholars stood in mortal terror, when the schoolmaster would send the urchin to him for a scolding. Many a time had he threatened to put the boy in a dark hole up in the garret. In early times the shoemaker went his rounds throughout the country, stopping at a farmer's house until he had made shoes for the entire family. The farmer furnished the home made leather, and the shoemaker all the accessories that went to make up a pair of shoes or boots.

Thus we see that old Acquackanonk, with her commerce and shipping business, her merchants, stores and professional men, her taverns, churches and schools, was a place of great activity.

Major Robert Drummond, of the British army during the Revolutionary War, a resident of Acquackanonk, now Passaic City, 1750 to 1776, a merchant and shipper, was a son of Robert Drummond, a prominent New Yorker who, by reason of persecution in Scotland in the reign of James Second, came to New York, where he was elected sheriff, 1713-14. He subsequently removed to Elizabeth. His first wife, who died in 1712, was the daughter of James Evett, of St. Botsolph, Bishopsgate, London, and his second wife, the widow of Richard Hall. She died at the close of the Revolution.

Robert, the son, is presumed to have been born at Elizabeth about the year 1720, and when thirty years of age came to Passaic, and opened a store in a small building on the present River drive, where now is the S. M. Birch Company's lumber yard, where he made a fortune, not alone in his country store and shipping business, but in the mining of iron ore in the Pompton, Ringwood and other regions. It is reported that he had an interest of some kind in nearly every iron mine, not only in New Jersey, but also several in the adjoining states of New York and Pennsylvania. He was unmarried when he first came here, and went to board with the family of Elias Vreeland, who then lived in the Garritse house, elsewhere spoken of in this work, on the Weasel road. When





the war of the Revolution broke out he refused to assist the Americans and remained a Royal subject. He was instrumental in recruiting the Second Battalion of New Jersey, Loyalists, of which he was made major. Sabine's "History of the Loyalists of the Revolution," says:

Robert Drummond of Acquackanonk, Essex county, major in Second Battalion of New Jersey, Loyalists. Of this battalion upwards of two hundred men were his neighbors, enlisted under his influence and persuasion. A large proportion of them fell victims to the climate of South Carolina, Georgia, etc., or perished in battle. "New Jersey Volunteers (Loyalists)," Stryker, says: Few men did more to make General Skinner's brigade a numerical success than Robert Drummond. He spent most of the fall of 1776 recruiting for the Volunteers, was very successful, and was made Major of the Third Battalion on November 20, 1776, and in 1782 and 1783 of the Second Battalion. He was in service during the whole war. A large number of the men enlisted by him fell victims to fever in the southern campaign. He died in the Chelsea Hospital, district of London, and was buried in St. Luke's church yard, February 3, 1789. Major Drummond, before the war, lived at Acquackanonk Landing, now Passaic, New Jersey, and was a merchant and shipper. He married, April 1, 1759, Jennie, daughter of Elias Vreeland. A portrait of him is still extant taken in London in 1784, which represents him in the uniform of a British officer—scarlet coat, blue facings and buff vest.

He was a member of the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey from 1770 to 1774, a deputy to the Provincial Congress in May, 1775, and again in October, in January and June, 1776. On July 2, 1776, he voted against the adoption of the Constitution of the State. In 1778 his property was all confiscated.

He was the owner of the property where his store stood, but seems to have abandoned his business when he went to the war and never returned to resume it. He had five children born here, and baptized in the old church between 1760 and February, 1775. Of these, two died and are buried in the old church-yard. Mary died October 6, 1761, only five months old. Sarah died October 29, 1772, aged four years and nine months. Their mother, who died about 1790, was buried beside her children, but has no tombstone.

Because of his dislike for the Americans and their cause, he himself was disliked by them. His family and descendants have become extinct, as the only living grandchildren died childless about twenty years ago. Among his property confiscated was a farm of sixty-three acres near Pompton, in 1778. The last act in the drama of this man was performed in 1795, when the surrogate of Essex county appointed Peter Allen guardian of Elias, the only son of Robert Drummond.

In addition to those above spoken of as engaged in river commerce, there were also John Low, Isaac I. Vanderbeek, William L. Andruss, Abraham Zabriskie, Adrian Van Houten, Abraham Freeland, Martin I. Ryerson, John Kip, Robert Morrell, David I. Anderson, Peter Jackson, Henry Garritse, and others. The names of some of the boats were *Olive Branch*, *Wadsworth*, *Experiment*, *Proprietor*, *Gilpin*, *Belleville*, *Confidence*, *Highland Chief*, *Lodi*, *Hugh Bolton*, and *Laura Keen*. The original bill for coal, of which the following is a copy, is in the possession of the writer:





New York, May 3, 1844.

STEAMBOAT PROPRIETORS AND OWNERS.

Bought of Del. and Hudson Coal Co.

3 tons Lackawanna coal, lump @ 3.75..... \$11.25

Received Payment

F. NEALIS.

Passaic has been headquarters for lumber, timber and all kinds of building materials for at least two hundred years, and from about 1716 to nearly the close of that century was the only place in this section of the state where such could be obtained. This was because of navigation on the river, whereby materials were received and despatched.

So far as known, John Low was the first to engage in this business here, possibly as early as 1715. His yard occupied the site No. 141 River drive, where today there is a lumber yard of the S. M. Birch Lumber Company.

The successor of the Low business today is the Anderson Lumber Company, the successor of William S. Anderson, the successor of Anderson Brothers, the successors of Anderson and Post, the successors of Morrell and Post some seventy-five years ago. An old-time lumber advertisement reads as follows:

10,000 Tally Boards, assorted,  
6,000 " Plank,  
50,000 Shingles, 2 & 3 ft., Cedar and Cypress,  
500 2 inch Spruce Plank,  
500 1 " "  
2,000 1½ inch Spruce Plank, worked,  
1,500 1½ " Pine " "  
1,000 1½ " Yellow Pine Plank, worked,  
500 1½ " " " rough,  
1,500 feet Ash Plank and Boards,  
5,000 " 2, 1½, 1¼, 1 and ¾ inch Pine Plank, and Boards  
5,000 " Box Boards, Superior,  
3,000 " " " common,  
20 bundles Shingles,  
Lime, Lath, Brick, &c., of all kinds, constantly on hand,  
By MORRELL & POST.  
Acquackanonk, Aug. 13. 1838.

Just what tally boards and plank were is hard to tell. Before the days of keeping book accounts by entries in books, all accounts were kept on a board, the edges of which had notches with prices marked thereon, into which plugs were inserted. The boards were about ten by sixteen inches in size, and half an inch thick, made of cedar or cyprus. The large quantity on hand as here stated forbids the idea that they were for book accounts, and leads to the conclusion that they were similar to our beaver boards.

The following is a blacksmith's bill:

JOHN J. NAFEE,		Dr.	
To RULYPH DOOREMUS.			
in year	1804.	£.	S. D.
March 17,	to one spouk and rimming two wheels.....	1	1 9
22,	to rimming two wheels .....	1	1
		2	2 9



For value received, I assign the above to George H. Dooremus, in full this second day of January, in the year 1805, as witness my hand this day.

RULUPH DOOREMUS.

The spelling of the surname, it will be observed, shows double "o." Here is another evidence of the scarcity of cash. George had a store where the blacksmith bought groceries, for which he traded off his claim against Nafee.

The following will give an idea of what a journeyman mason charged:

WILLIAM RENSHAW.				
Dec. 6, 1804.	To mason work after Cr.	£.	S.	D.
	Given balance .....	0	2	6
1805.	Dr.			
	For mason work, 14 days at 10 shillings.....	7		
		7	2	6
Cr.	By two orders on Mr. P. Jackson,	£.	S.	
	one for .....	3	0	
	" " .....	1	12	0
	Balance due .....	2	10	6
		BENONY KINYON.		

Jackson had a store, upon whom orders were given in lieu of cash, which was so scarce.

John A. Ackerman, who owned all of Dundee east of Second street, as well as the island, now part of First Ward Park, paid a tax of \$33.88, according to the following tax bill printed on a small piece of white paper three and one-quarter by four and one-half inches in size:

MR. JOHN A. ACKERMAN.		
Your county tax for 1850 is .....		\$11.14
Your Poor and School tax is .....		11.12
Your Dog tax is .....		.50
Your Road tax is .....		11.12
		\$33.88

Now due and payable to me before the 20th of October, next.  
The Collector will sit to receive taxes: Oct. 14, at Mrs. Snyder's; Oct. 15, Jacob Snyder's; Oct. 16, Jacob Van Winkle's Canal Hotel; Oct. 17, Rynier Speer's.

Acquackanonk Township, August 1, 1850.

FRANCIS VAN NESS, Collector.





## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE OLD SQUIRE AND HIS COURT.

During Colonial days, the services of a lawyer were seldom required in a rural community, such as this was, and then only in a few (not all) litigated matters, all legal business, such as drawing agreements, deeds, mortgages, leases, wills, articles of co-partnership and of apprenticeship, articles of separation between husband and wife (which were very general then), and other documents, was done by the "Squire," or justice of the peace, many of whom were very capable in this business, when the few laws made it possible for a layman to become familiar with and apply them to the business in hand, enabling them to give counsel on many knotty problems, and without charge. In those days a justice of the peace was a pattern of an Old England Squire—of commanding personality, neatly dressed, cleanly shaven, the long hair gathered in a queue hanging down the back, and tied with a ribbon of a bright primary color, into a large bow. The face and hair were profusely powdered, even though, mayhap in some cases, a wig was worn. Who ever, in those days, saw a bald-headed Squire? His long, swallow-tail coat of black, and a long waistcoat of a different color, were enhanced in value to the eye by rows of flat, brass buttons, those on the former being two inches in diameter, while those on the latter were only half an inch across. Knickerbockers, held at the knees by buckles, usually of silver, of a high polish, light colored, long stockings, low shoes, on the tops of which were similar buckles, completed the office dress of an erudite, educated, well-informed and accomplished gentleman, who was looked upon as an exponent of English law, whose long arm was able to reach the length and breadth of his county, thereby commanding the fear of the criminal, and the respect of law abiding people.

Soon after the first settlement here, 1678-79, without waiting for one to be appointed by the Governor, Elias Vreeland was elected the first justice of the peace for this vicinity. The qualifications for a justice to possess are shown in the county court composed solely and wholly of the several Justices of any county, who tried civil and criminal cases, as well as decided cases on appeal from the Justices Courts. The first court for the territory hereabouts was created in 1688 by the following Act:

**An act for a Court of Small Causes for the out Plantation in Bergen county and another for Acquickannick and New Barbadoes.**

Forasmuch as the inhabitants of the out plantations of the county of Bergen and of Acquickannick and New Barbadoes in the county of Essex, having made frequent complaint of the daily loss they sustain for want of a monthly court of small causes



in each respective place, as is already granted in each town in and throughout the Province.

Be it therefore enacted by the governor, council and Deputies now met in general assembly, and by the authority of the same, that for the orderly hearing and determining all matters and cases of controversy between party and party, and for the due execution of the laws, that after publication hereof, there shall be held at the house of Lawrence Andriess, of New Hackensack, in the said county of Bergen, a monthly court, or court of small causes, upon the second Wednesday in every month, for the ending of all differences between party and party to the value of forty shillings and under the said court to be held after the same forms and methods as are prescribed in former acts of assembly, for courts of small causes in every the respective towns within this Province. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be also held at the house of Doctor Johannes, upon Hackensack river, in the said county of Essex, upon every first Wednesday in every month, the like court of small causes for the ending of all differences of the like nature, amongst the inhabitants of Acquickannick, and New Barbadoes, aforesaid.

The Justice's Court was denominated the "Court of Small Causes," and for many years the Governor appointed the justices, and as a result only men of ability were appointed, who were accorded the respect of all. In the earlier days, lawyers were so scarce that seldom was one of them appointed justice, because they were needed more as advocates than as judges. The men selected either by the governor, when justices were appointed, or elected by the voters, were men of good education, probity and reputation, standing high in the estimation of their neighbors who considered themselves honored in having men of this character to be judges of their acts and dealings. Among them were Elias, Cornelius, John and Michael Vreeland, John Van Winkle, Cornelius G. Van Riper. The latter is the only layman appointed a Master in Chancery. This title being conferred upon lawyers only. This shows his ability and high standing.

Garret Van Houten, who resided at the present north corner of Prospect street and River drive, was the most famous of the Squires, or justices of the peace of his day. Before him actions were instituted in great numbers, in both civil and criminal matters. Merchants, physicians and farmers placed claims with him for collection, with instructions to sue, if not paid. The average amount of the claims was so small as to seem ridiculous at this late day. Suits were brought by the score for less than five dollars, many for less than two dollars. Judging by his fees, which on all uncontested cases were only fiftythree cents in each case, the justice could not expect to grow rich very fast. But the pressing need of money forced these small suits.

Trials were held, if cases were to be contested, at some tavern, which offered every inducement to facilitate the Squire, the lawyers, and the litigants. The dining room of the tavern was used around whose long table the parties interested sat—the opposing forces on either side, the Squire at one end and constable at the other, while the jury faces the





Squire. Trials were great events, attended by not only the villagers, but by farmers from miles away, who came simply out of curiosity, and to enjoy a day that was bound to relieve monotony. Horse trials were great events, in which lawyers from Newark charmed the audience with their oratory, and whose searching questions to witnesses led many to judge of their legal acumen and secured new clients.

Sometimes, in order to avoid litigation, matters were given to arbitrators to decide as appears by the following: "A Report made this 8th day of May, 1804, Between Daniel Hedden and Jacob Bowman, and we find in favor of Daniel Hedden, the sum of three dollars and ninety five cents as witness our hands." This is signed by three arbitrators. Here we see the estimation placed on money and the saving of even cents. Bowman claimed five dollars. But as he was obligated to pay each arbitrator fifty cents, he would have saved forty-five cents had he accepted Hedden's offer of four dollars for his claim.

The scarcity of money led to the giving of orders, some on the Squires and many on the storekeepers. The following, of which the originals are in the possession of the writer, are samples: "Esqr Van Houten will please pay to the bearer Doct John Woodward, the money you collected on a note in your hands against Richard Watson, Schoolmaster. May 24, 1809." (Signed), Elijah Rosegrant. Dr. Woodward resided on River drive, at the southerly limits of the city, succeeding Dr. Abiatha Millard, who was there during and for several years after the Revolutionary War.

John R. Ludlow, who was considered well-to-do, found it necessary to give the following order: "Sir: Pay Jacob Jno. Vreeland thirteen dollars and thirty one cents, out of the first money in your hands. To Garret Van Houten, Esq'r." Ludlow had a store on River drive, near Westervelt place, and like most merchants sold on credit. Once or twice a year he would place all unpaid bills in the hands of the justice of the peace for collection, which explains, "out of the first money in your hands."

Paterson Land'g, 10th February, 1815.

Garret Van Houten, Esq.

Sir: Please to pay Peter Jackson, the am't of the Judgment I have against Jeremiah Mitchel. This receipt shall be in full for the same.

JOHN R. POST.

Jackson had a store, and Post operated a saw mill. He was a man of means, but had not money. Mitchel was constable, and the organizer of a company called Captain Mitchell's Company, in the war of 1812. He resided at the southeast corner of Lexington avenue and Monroe street, where he kept a boarding house.





Weazel, July 1, 1823.

Mr. R. J. Bants, Sir: Please to pay John P. Brown the sum of 45½ cents, and this will be your receipt.

Richard J. Banta.

ISAAC ALYEA.

Esq. Van Houten: I would thank you to pay Mr. Trusman five dollars.

Feb. 9, 1826.

LEMUEL BURR.

Burr was a physician and Trusman a gardener.

Judge Van Houten.

Sir: You let the bearer have that judgment which I obtained and this will be your recite.

Feb. 27, 1826.

ISAAC A. VANDERBEEK.

James J. Post, vs. John Vreeland, Jr. Judgment for debt—store bill, \$38.91, and costs, which, because Vreeland demanded and had a jury of twelve men, who heard the testimony of many witnesses, were unusually high, amounting to the enormous total of \$3.50. Vreeland's defence was that he had made cash payments on account, which he was not credited with. But as he could show no receipts, he tried to prove payments by men and women in the store, on the days of payment. As usual, not one remembered dates or amounts. Some saw, others "only heard the sound of silver, copper and other coins made by spreading the same on the counter near Mr. Post's desk. "I saw and heard this more than once, but did not know whether Vreeland was paying Post, or backwards," as Nathaniel Thorpe swore on the stand. Immediately after the jury found in favor of Post, the debt was paid, as appears by the original receipt in the possession of the editor, which reads: "Received \$38.91, the amount of judgment against John Vreeland, Jr. May 11, 1814." (Signed) James J. Post.

Post made enough money to purchase what in that day was an outlying farm, extending from Lexington avenue westerly to the present city's limits, through which Autumn, Harrison and President streets now run, for which he paid \$5,000. In addition, he owned the premises on the present River drive, where his store was located.

#### SUMMONS.

New Jersey,     }  
Essex County.    }

ss.

To any Constable of said County—

Summon Thomas Linford to appear before me, at B. N. Sheridan's Tavern, in the Township of Acquackanonk, on the 28th day of February at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, to answer Garrabrant Van Houten in a plea of debt one dollar and eighty-five cents. Hereof fail not.

Given under my hand and seal this seventeenth day of February, 1814.

G. VAN HOUTEN, Justice of the Peace.

Sheridan was an Irishman, and by profession a schoolmaster. He



had had charge of the old district school here and at Weasel. Linford at this time conducted a tavern on Bloomfield avenue.

Garrabrant Van Houten was a Common Pleas Judge of Bergen county, where he resided then.

Patterson Landing, 16th May, 1814.

Garret Van Houten, Esq.

Please to pay the amount of that judgment in favor of me against Thomas Walls, being five dollars, when collected by execution, to Mr. George Banta, and this will be the receipt for the above, by doing this you will grant me a great favor.

Yours in Haste,

RICHARD H. VAN HOUTEN.

Walls, a son-in-law of wealthy Jacob Vreeland, was a carpenter. Van Houten was a farmer, who had sold potatoes to Walls, whom he had sued therefor. Banta for a dozen years kept tavern in the Tap House, near the old church.

Patterson Landing, Sept. 9, 1822.

Rec'd from Peter Slots \$42.50 and 73c costs, being for judgment in favor of us before Garret Van Houten, Esq., given 8th June, 1822.

RYERSON AND DEMAREST.

Peter Slote drove the stage between Paterson (where he resided) and New York, and occasionally purchased supplies at the store of Ryerson and Demarest, which stood at the present number 137 River drive, near the tavern where he made regular stops, during which he made visits to this store.

#### BILL OF COSTS—1820.

Summons .....	.12½	Witness fee .....	.50
Serving .....	.40	Jurors fee 6 men .....	1.50
Adjourning Case .....	.10	Constable attending jury .....	.25
Subpoena .....	.07	Verdict, entry of .....	.04
Serving .....	.25	Entering action .....	.10
Hearing Case .....	.12½	Entering judgment .....	.10
Summoning Jury .....	.60		
Swearing Jury .....	.20		
Swearing Witness .....	.05		
			<hr/> \$4.85

Of this amount the justice would receive \$1.51 for his day's work, and the constable ninety cents, which they considered good pay.

It seems harsh and somewhat cruel to learn that John H. Post, our hero of the Revolution, sued and was sued. Yet such was the case. In 1804 he sued Garret G. Speer, against whom he recovered judgment for a debt of twenty-one cents, and on the same day he sued Cornelius C. Speer, and recovered judgment for forty-five cents, debt, and fifty-three cents, costs. We might suppose that our hero was a poor and needy man to bring suits for such insignificant sums; neither of which, by the way, was he able to collect, although he incurred additional expense of executions. He was very poor, owing to the fact that his employment was vicarious, and his earnings very small. In the days of his youth, he assisted on his father's farm. Soon after marriage, he rented a





small farm of Abraham Ackerman on (Weasel driftway), Crooks avenue, over part of which Lakeview avenue is now laid, where he, by dint of hard work, made a poor living for twenty years, or until the fall of 1806, when he moved to a small house of Adrian Van Houten, which stood where the Erie railroad crosses Main avenue. He secured a job of grading and carting (with his horse and cart) of that avenue, then the Paterson and Hamburg turnpike, which commenced in 1806, giving him about two years' employment. The little house, which had to be removed, was vacated by Post, July 7, 1809. When Post left Ackerman, he owed him \$10.50 rent, for which judgment was obtained January 9, 1809. This was repeated six months later, when on July 7 he vacated Van Houten's house, owing \$28.72 rent for seven months and six days, for which judgment was entered August 7, 1809. Both, however, were paid December 29, 1810, with his earnings from the turnpike company, long held up for lack of funds to pay.

In those days imprisonment for debt was the law, which was enforced in a startling manner for small amounts. On January 7, 1810, Abraham Ackerman recovered judgment before Garret Van Houten against Harmonis C. and Jacob Van Riper for \$6.81 debt and \$1.05 costs, upon which they were arrested and carried off to prison, as appears by the following receipt:

August 7, 1810, Received of George Van Geson, constable, the Bodies of Harmonas C. Van Riper and Jacob Van Riper into Custody on account of the debt and costs as above stated.

JAPHIA HARRISON, for Isaac Pierson, Sheriff.

Ackerman kept a store here. The Van Ripers were carpenters—out of work, because of the hard times then prevailing hereabouts.

#### Province of New Jersey, S. S.

George the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.

To Our Sheriff of Our said County of Essex, Greeting: We command you that you take Rolif Cornelusse, alias Dirk Rolif Cornelusse Van Houston, if he may be found in your Bailwick, and him safely keep, so that you have his Body before Our Judge and Justices, at our next County court to be held at Newark, in and for Our said County, on the second Tuesday in April, next, to answer Richard Ashfield of a plea that he render unto him the sum of eleven pounds four shillings, which to him he oweth and unjustly detaineth, as is said, etc. And have you then and there this writ.

Witness, Joseph Bonnell, Esq., Judge of Our said Court, at Newark, aforesaid, the tenth day of January in the sixth year of Our Reign, etc.

MICL KEARNEY, Clerk.

P. Kearny, Atty.

The sixth year of the reign of George the Second was A. D., 1733.



## CHAPTER XX.

### SLAVERY.

There is no doubt in regard to the responsibility of the Dutch for introducing slavery into several of the Colonies, and it is a well known fact that one of their ships landed African slaves at Jamestown in 1620.

As early as 1628, mention is made of blacks owned as slaves in this colony. In 1629 the Dutch West India Company offered to supply colored slaves to all those who would plant colonies. In 1639 Jacob Stoffelsen employed them in constructing Fort Amsterdam, at which time the value of an able-bodied fellow was inventoried by him for the company at forty guilders, or about sixteen dollars of our money. This company itself was not above this business, since we learn that in 1644 Nicholas Van Hoorn acknowledged the receipt of a young black girl, to be returned at the end of four years, "if yet alive."

The prices of slaves under the Dutch regime varied. In 1651, black women from eighteen to thirty years of age were sold in far-off Curacao for an equivalent of two hundred dollars, while at the same time black men in the New Netherlands, between sixteen and forty, brought only one hundred dollars. At an auction held in 1664, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church paid one hundred and seventy-six dollars for a young African. It was a common thing in balancing accounts in those days, when scarcity of cash necessitated bartering, to throw in a slave or two. Slaves who had been faithful for a quarter century were accorded half liberty, i. e., they were allowed the same period of time off that they had worked—one week, for the master entitled them to one week for themselves, to work or play, or both.

The era of English domination was from 1644 to 1777—one hundred and thirty-three years, when the Revolutionary War brought England's rule to an end. During this period the traffic in Africans continued, and the question of its being right or wrong received little attention. It remained for Thomas Jefferson to complain that the several colonies had never been allowed by England to put in operation any laws that were passed either to hinder or prevent the introduction of slaves; and his original draft of the Declaration of Independence gave a terrible scoring to George the Third for prolonging the existence of the slave trade.

Soon after the Revolution, the question of slavery became a national one, and was agitated in every state. It began to dawn upon most people that buying and selling human beings, no matter if his skin were black, was not only cruel, when it came to separating members of a family, unchristian and heathenish, but it was morally wrong. This led to the passage of laws having for their object ameliorating the con-





dition of the slave, manumission and other little bites of the apple, but none abolishing slavery as an institution. But it was coming, and required time.

Long after the Revolution (1804) a State law was passed providing that every child born of a slave after July 4, 1804, should be free, but remain the servant of his mother's owner until he or she arrived at, if a boy, twenty-five, and if a girl, twenty-one years of age. In 1820 an act was passed for the gradual abolition of slavery in this State, but the act for final abolition was not passed until 1846. No compensation was allowed to the owner. In the olden times slaves were plentiful in this vicinity. Every farmer had from two to a dozen or twenty to work his farm.

The following are copies of slaves bills of sale:

To all to whom these presents Shall Come Know Ye that I Derrck Van Geison in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey For and in Consideration of the Sum of Seventy six pounds five Shillings Current Money of New York to me in hand well and truly paid by Halmagh Van Winkle of the said County and State aforesaid the Receipt Whereof I do hereby acknowledge and myself therewith fully Satisfied Contented and paid And by these presents Do hereby Acquit and Discharge the above Named Halmagh Van Winckel, his heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns Have Given Granted Bargained and Sold and by these presents Do Give grant bargain and Sell unto the said Helmagh Van Winckel his heirs and Assigns forever a Negro Wench Named Poll together with her Child named Harr together with their wearing apparel To have and to hold the said Negro Wench and her Child aforesaid to him the Said Helmagh Van Winckel to the only proper use and behoof of him the Said Helmagh Van Winckel his heirs and Assigns forever. And that the aforesaid Helmagh Van Winckel his heirs and Assigns may at all times hereafter forever Use Employ Let here, sell Convey and Confirm the above Bargained Slave and her Child And I the said Derrck Van Gieson Do Covenant to and with the said Helmagh Van Winckel his heirs or Assigns that I have full Right good power and Lawful Authority to Sell Convey and Confirm the above bargained Wench and her Child And also bind myself my heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents to Warrant and Defend the above bargained Wench and her Child from all person or persons whatsoever. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this first day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty four.

DERRCK VAN GEISEN.

Sealed & Delivered in the presence of John Van Geisen, Halma G. Van Geisen.

Know all men by these presents that I, Albert I. Ackerman of the Township of Acquackanonk, and County of Passaic and State of New Jersey for and in consideration of Thirty dollars to me in hand paid by Adrian Van Blarcom of the Township of Acquackanonk and County of Passaic and State of New Jersey, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do bargain and sell to the said Adrian Van Blarcom and his heirs and assigns, my servant Dina A. Coloured, Girl and now Slave to me, to have and to hold the said colored Girl named Dina until the said Dina may go out free under the Law of New Jersey, entitled, an act for the gradual abolition of slavery, in New Jersey, the said Dina was Fifteen years old the first day of January last past. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of October, Eighteen hundred and thirty nine.





The late Mayor Ayerigg's father, John Bancker Ayerigg, on May 9, 1829, by a writing under his hand and seal, executed in the presence of two subscribing witnesses and duly recorded, did manumit and set free his negro man Jack of the age of twenty-eight. Henry I. Kip likewise manumitted his slave woman Sarah; John S. Van Winkle his slave Ephraim, and John Outwater his negro wench Mariah.

Advertisements of the sale of slaves were very common. The following are samples taken from a Newark paper of June 28, 1797: "To be sold a negro man and woman aged about thirty. The man understands farming and all kinds of household work. They will be sold separately or together as may best suit the purchaser. Enquire of the Printers." Same paper, July 12, 1797: "To be sold, a negro man about 25 years old brought up to the farming business. He is strongly made; active; good disposition and capable of doing as much work perhaps as any man in the state. The price for him is only \$250. Enquire of the Printers."

In many instances, masters were so cruel that slaves ran away. This, too, was a common occurrence. In too many instances they were found only to be returned and in too many cases subjected to the cruel punishment of raw hides. The following is one of the many notices advertised in the papers:

TEN HARD DOLLARS REWARD.

Ran away last night from the subscriber a Negro Man named Frank about 40 years of age, 5 feet, 8 or 10 inches high, slender made, has small legs, remarkable large flat feet, stoops, and hobbles very much in his walking; had on or took with him a long brown broad cloth coat, a pair of blue plush breeches, several cloth jackets, some tow shirts and trowsers. Also ran away at the same time, a Negro wench named Phoebe (wife of said Negro man) about 40 years of age. Very talkative, active and smart. Had on, or took with her, a dark brown chintz gown, a black calimanco quilt, some short gowns and petty coats, besides several things she has stolen. She also took with her her male child named Obidiah, about 18 months old, but small of his age; he has a very large head and crooked legs. Whoever secures the above negroes that the subscriber may have them again shall receive the above reward and reasonable charges, if brought home paid by July 24, 1781.

JOHN WILSON.

Claus, a negro, ran away from his master on May 1, 1732, and as a reminder dressed himself in a graw homespun Drugget coat, trimmed with black, white linen vest, trimmed with black, homespun Kersey vest, leather breeches with red puffs, shoes and stockings. He could fiddle tolerably well. The women runaways wore: Eleanor White, a callimanco gown, stript with red, blue and white, and a round eared cap; Mary Brown, a reddish brown wrapper, black petticoat, blue stockings; Martha Barnes, low heeled shoes, two striped homespun petticoats, and a big hat with red brim.

For petty misdemeanors the punishment was whipping on the bare



back, in public, usually at a tavern. The affair generally brought a crowd much to the gratification and profit of "mine host," who after an affair of this kind was several dollars richer. The public whipping place at old Acquackanonk was at the tavern on River Drive, opposite the church. The culprits usually were negroes, who were often punished for the most trivial offences, and it was a common occurrence to see a certain one often whipped. The punishment was inflicted upon the judgment of two justices of the peace, before whom the charge was heard. The culprit would be held up with his thumbs tied above his head, and the whipping of a prescribed number of lashes would be applied to his bare back. John Scoop, a colored man owned by John Van Wagoner, received many whippings. At first he winced only, bearing it like a man, but after a while, as they became more frequent, he would squirm and hop around exclaiming, "You can't kill this nigger." To make the punishment more severe, the back of the victim was often washed with rum at the end of ten lashes.

These whipping posts were established in various places, and was a common form of punishment. Usually the number of lashes was from ten to fifty. In Bergen county, however, this form of punishment was pursued with a vengeance, as many as five hundred lashes being inflicted under which one colored man, at least, is known to have died. At times the punishment was not only severe but extremely cruel. It was dispensed with after the Revolution.

In addition to African slaves, there was another kind of servitude of limited duration, which while it lasted was as laborious but more odious than slavery itself. Those who performed the service were called Redemptioners, from the fact that redemption from servitude was to be obtained at a price, and the system itself came about as a result of famine and hard times in Ireland, and wars and scarcity of work in other of the island kingdoms compelled many to come to this country, which began about 1730. The greater number was from Ireland, with sprinklings from England and Scotland, included among whom were lawyers, physicians, school teachers, artizans of all kinds, tradesmen and laborers. Not one among them had the price of his voyage over. There being a shortage of workmen here a man who needed help would journey to New York, call at a steamship office, and select the men he wanted, who were either there then or would be brought over later, whose passage money he would pay to the captain, or it might be there had arrived a ship loaded with these people, who would be sold singly at auction for terms of years, or for life, to pay the amount due the captain. After the purchase and the money paid, the law required a written agreement similar to the following:

Acquackanonk, March 21, 1738.

This Indenture made this day, Witnesseth, that in consideration of my passage





from Rotterdam to New York having been paid by John J. Sip, as also for other good causes moving to me, I, John Curry have, and by these presents do hereby bind myself servant to the said Sip to serve him, his executors, administrators or assigns, from the date of these presents to and for a period of twenty years, thence ensuing, during which I promise to serve him, or them, faithfully and honestly as a good and faithful servant ought, and to be obedient.

The said Sip shall find and provide me during said term with sufficient meat and drink, apparel, washing and lodging, and at the expiration thereof, shall give me one full suit of clothes, an extra pair of good shoes and leather breeches, and also five pounds current money.

Dated the first year of his Majesty's reign.

JOHN J. SIP  
JOHN CURRY.

Because of long, hard hours, and a desire to roam, many ran away, as appears by scores of newspaper advertisements similar to the following:

Ran away from Cornelius Altse, a servant man named Stanly McGibbon, Scotchman born, and transported Redemptioner. Has a full red face and wears a homespun ragged coat and ozenbrigt shirt. Has no hair. Talks and smokes much.

Ran away from Lucas Wessel, an old country servant man, Dennis McCarthy, about 40 years of age (described his dress and adds, "He owes his passage money"). Altse and Wessels resided on the present Lexington avenue.

Runaway, the 18th instant from Thomas Ustick of Second River in Newark, East Jersey, an Irish Servant Man named Owen Ward about 23 years of age, a slender groom Man with a large scar on the left side of his face under his Eye and the fore finger of one of his hands lost the first joint; professes to be a Husbandman and Miner. Had on a Hat scoloped round the Brim, a white wig and a blue checked cotton shirt. He was taken up and imprison'd at Burlington, and after taking him from thence he made his Escape. Whoever takes up and brings him to Thomas Dunning at the George Inn in Philadelphia, or to his said Master, shall have 40 shillings reward. June, 1735.

Griffin Jones, slender build, short black hair, ran away from his master January 16, 1732, wearing an old Camblet coat and a blue Duffels coat with black lining and trimmings; leather breeches, old shoes and stockings, and an old beaver hat.

Two months later Philip Welch took quiet leave of his master wearing upon his bald pate (although only 19 years of age), a felt hat, accompanied by a dark brown great coat, a dark brown coat and breeches, linen jacket, black and white woolen stockings, a pair of new pumps, a white and blue striped worsted cap, under the aforesaid felt hat.

Ran away, October 3, 1748, from Mr. Samuel Coles, an English servant lad named William Price, about 19 years of age, middle size. Has a downlook, pitted with the small pox, is round shouldered and has brown hair. Had on a coarse grey homespun coat, lined with striped homespun, homespun shirt, patched, felt hat, coarse tow trousers and good shoes, with strings, but have straps for buckles. Reward of 40 shillings given for his return.

Ran away September 6, 1762, from Alexander Morgan, an Irish servant lade, Edward Olive, about 18 years, a thick chunky fellow, light eyes and lightish hair. Had on a dark cinnamon colored homespun coat, without lining, an old striped waistcoat, good felt hat, ozanbrigt shirt and trousers. Had two pairs of shoes, one quite new.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### EARLY STYLES AND LOTTERIES.

During Colonial days both men and women were arrayed in colors of the rainbow, and bedecked with many useless accessories. The dresses of the women of the better class were mostly silk, in yellow, blue, green, red and black colorings. The skirt was full and flowing over each hip, but straight and close fitting in front and behind. It was long enough to touch the ground and required raising in walking. The waist was of the same material as the skirt, of which it was a part, and to which it was attached. A row of buttons down the back of the waist was ornamental as well as necessary to fasten it. There were also woolen and cotton dresses, and a mixture of linen and wool called linsey-woolsey, which was seldom used by the richer class.

While many of the early settlers were in good circumstances, they made no show of wealth in their dress. Their one great exemplification of life was labor, to which they scrupulously adhered, men and women, so long as they were able. This characteristic the Dutch have always possessed. Style in dress never gave the richest of them—man or woman—a second's thought. There were, however, living here and in this vicinity, a few rich families from England and Scotland, who brought with them the styles of London and Edinborough, which they took pride in exhibiting at weddings, frolics (parties), election day, King's birthday, and particularly at the "Meetin' House" on Sundays.

Space forbids the citing of more than one instance of the ladies' dress of that period (about one hundred and seventy-five years ago), albeit, the description of one is that of all. On Sunday, October 6, 1754, Jane (the daughter of Elias J. Vreeland, an early Dutch settler living near the present Dundee Dam), wife of Robert Drummond, a wealthy storekeeper, and iron mine owner, attended service in the Reformed Church, to which the farmers for miles around came with their families. Because of her rich dress, she became the object, as she went up the middle aisle, not only of the women folk present, but of Dominie Van Dressen, who while waiting for the hour of service to arrive, sat in his big chair, up on the high pulpit, scanning his congregation. Mrs. Drummond wore a black silk petticoat with a red and white calico border, cherry colored stays, trimmed with blue and silvery ribbon, a red and dove colored gown flowered with large trees, a yellow satin apron, elaborately trimmed, a muslin head dress with lace ruffles, a black silk scarf and a spotted silk hood or "capuchin." Her hair was arranged in a lofty coiffure, while her ears were adorned with large ear rings. A large gold breast pin adorned her bosom, and white silk gloves encased her hands.





White stockings reaching to the calf of the leg, where they were fastened by ribbons of varied colors, which at first were tied in bows, and later by clasps, were the fashion. The feet were incased in leather slippers covered with satin and embroidered with gold lace. The heels were two inches high. The slippers were perhaps three inches longer than the foot, coming to a sharp point in front. They had no rear guard or quarter, but were held in place by ribbons attached to the sides and tied in bows over the ankles.

There was nothing attractive or becoming to woman's dress. No attempt will be made to describe in detail the various costumes of the richer class of women of Colonial days. Suffice it to say that all are familiar, more or less, with the comparatively graceless dress of the day—the stiff and unnaturally elongated stays, the immense expanse of skirt, sustained by the hoop, the high heeled shoes and towering head gear, the short sleeve, with immense cuffs (borrowed from the man's dress), with profusion of lace falling over the arms. The whole attire reminding one of a gypsy maid, dressed for a masquerade. To judge by contemporary records and portraits, the fashions of the colonies were in no way behind those of Old England, among this class.

In those days fashions did not so rapidly vary as nowadays, and the materials were so substantial, as notably the damasks and brocades that, of necessity, dresses became heirlooms. In time the female fashion yielded to some harmony with Nature, and the natural hair was worn of becoming length, the hoops were somewhat curtailed and aprons, even with full dress, became the vogue.

On the other hand, the dress of men was consistently graceful, stately and ample, displaying the figure to great advantage. A good illustration of this is afforded in the person of Robert Drummond, who follows his wife up the church aisle. He is of portly build, with full, rounded, smooth face, and has on a full dress, black coat, with white buttons. The coat and sleeves are tight fitting; cuffs are of lace reaching to the knuckles; narrow white velvet collar; waistcoat of brown linen with two long points, reaching far below the waist line, and adorned with many buttons, blue knickerbockers made with flap front without "fly," and tied just below the knee with red ribbon, capped with golden knee buckles; silver shoe buckles hold in place the black ribbons, fastened to low shoes and tied on top of the instep. The bosom of his pink shirt is made up of high standing ruffles. His long hair is gathered in a queue ornamented and held together by a gold pin. The face and hair are thickly powdered. A tall beaver hat, gloves and cane, which he carried, completes his becoming attire.

Men of this class were fond of color in all their apparel. There was another, or middle class, whereof the women dressed in sombre colors of linen, woolen and cotton goods. One of the most common kind was linsey-woolsey, made of linen and woolen fibre. It looked well, wore a





long time, and was cheaper than all wool or silk. In fact many women used it who could afford the more expensive articles. Calico and calimanco were extensively used. Shawls were in general use, not only by women and girls, but by men also, long before cloaks and overcoats came in use. Men of this class avoided bright colors, preferring clothes of dark shades. They wore cloth and leather breeches. The latter were made from the skins of wild animals. Their work itself prohibited the wearing of a queue, which never was the fashion with the Dutch any more than were knickerbockers, in this State. On Sundays and holidays, men of this class wore blue or white shirts without bosom or cuffs, dark coat, vest and trousers, cap or soft felt hat and high top boots over which the trouser legs were drawn.

Little boys, after discarding baby dresses, donned clothes similar to their father's, with the addition of the tippet or scarf for the neck, added much to the comfort of the lad, whose body was left free for activities.

This class of women were workers, and as a consequence dressed very plainly—mostly in calico for everyday wear, but for Sundays and special occasions their dress was of linsey-woolsey of black, brown, dark blue, or drab coloring without hoops. In Summer a large poke bonnet was worn, which gave place in winter to a woolen hood, knitted at home, accompanied by mittens of wool likewise made.

The dress of men of the first class gave way, shortly after the Revolution, to a costume more in keeping with modern styles, when knickerbockers, stockings, knee and shoe buckles, ruffled shirt fronts, lace cuffs, the queue and powder were abandoned, as also were the clothes of many colors. While women modified the styles about that time, which they have continued to do ever since, they never abandoned colors.

There was still a third class composed of white servants, whose vanity was gratified by variety of texture, and color greater than that of the first class. It causes a smile to read of the wardrobe of this class, which is fully set forth and minutely described in the newspaper advertisements for runaway servants, and sometimes for runaway slaves, who had been tempted to discard their one-piece suit of blue jeans, and become arrayed in the butterfly colors of some servant.

#### LOTTERIES.

Although the moral public sentiment, as well as the law, abhor and forbid lotteries, or other game of chance, there was a time, and not so many generations ago either, when lotteries were resorted to, for the best of objects, religious as well as secular, and many churches profited thereby, among them the present First Reformed, formerly The Low Dutch Reformed Congregation at Acquackanonk. It seems strange to read of such:

Whereas, the Dutch and English of said congregation have labored under great



difficulties for want of a commodious House to worship God in; and at length have raised a sum of money by way of subscription, but it being found insufficient for finishing said Church, have therefore thought proper to raise whatever is necessary by way of lottery. It is hoped that all well wishers for the promoting of the Gospel, will adventure largely in order to forward said Building.

The lottery will consist of several (not exceeding five) thousand tickets at two dollars each, of which about one-fourth will be fortunate, and fifteen per cent. will be deducted from the prizes after the drawing is finished for the uses aforesaid.

Two months were taken for the sale of tickets. In the meantime notice was given of the time when a number of cards, equal to the number of tickets, would be placed, one each, on a blank card, and the cards thrown into a box, shaken up, and withdrawn singly by a person blindfolded, under the supervision of three justices of the peace, previously sworn to perform that duty, to which they were strictly accountable and responsible.





## CHAPTER XXII.

### PLACE NAMES NOW OBSOLETE AND OWNERS OF LAND IN PASSAIC IN 1775.

*Acquackanonk*—Originally all the land included in the cities of Clifton, Passaic, Paterson and Borough of Little Falls.

*Acquackanonk Church road*—Brook avenue.

*Acquackanonk Patent*—Deed for this land dated March 16, 1684.

*Acquackanonk River*—Passaic River.

*Acquackanonk Landing*—Now 149-159 River drive.

*Acquackanonk Township*—Included all land above described and as far east as Hackensack River.

*Back road*—Prospect street.

*Drift Way*—Brook and Van Houten avenues.

*Dwas* (Division) *road*—Albion street west of Brook avenue.

*Dundee*—Land on which are First to Tenth streets. From Dundee, Scotland. (See Chapter on Dundee Co.)

*Dundee Island*—Now part of First Ward Park. (See chapter Dundee Island).

*Frogtown*—Tract west of Main avenue over which Chestnut and Oak streets extend.

*Gotham* (Gotum)—Bounded southwest by Grove terrace and same extended.

*Gotham Division*—East by Passaic and Lexington Avenues to Monroe street, then all north of Monroe street to city's limits. Washington Irving was inspired to apply the name to New York City.

*Huyler's Station*—Passaic.

*Love Lane*—Passaic street, between Erie Railroad and Tail Race.

*Mineral Spring*—(See Brooks and Springs).

*Mineral Spring Road*—Bloomfield avenue.

*Oyter Cuyt*—Otter's hole. A bog meadow, now coal yard, Bloomfield avenue and D., L. & W. R. R.

*Passaic Bridge*—Passaic Park.

*Peach Orchard Road*—Paulison avenue northwest of Bloomfield avenue, which led to a peach orchard.

*Patent line*—Boundaries of the Point Patent (which see).

*Plains, the*—Part of Allwood.

*Point, the*—Land east of Second street to the river.

*Point Road, to the*—Park Place.

*Rock, Large Grey*—Southwest corner of Point Patent.

*Reef* (the)—Rock obstruction in the river at Delawanna.

*Sip Lane*—Van Houten avenue.



*Tap House*—Colonial tavern, headquarters in Revolution (see War of Revolution).

*Turtle Hill*—Apex of Albion street and Brook avenue.

*Turtle Hill Road*—Brook avenue.

*Vreeland Lane*—Madison and Monroe streets.

*Weasel (Wesel) Division*—Part of Clifton.

*Weasel road*—Lexington avenue.

There is on file in the Supreme Court office in Trenton a list of all Freeholders of the entire county of Essex in 1775, which was divided into three townships, viz.: Acquackanonk, Elizabeth and Newark. Every name in each is given alphabetically arranged according to each Christian name. Those of Acquackanonk (written Achquehenonk) are as follows—one hundred and ten in number:

## A.

Arie Sip  
Adraen A. Post  
Adraen F. Post  
Adraen P. Post  
Abra. Stuger  
Arie Cadmus  
Abra. Ryke  
Abra. P. Ryke  
Abra. Smith  
Antie Kip  
Abra. Doremus  
Arrent Simons  
Abra. Broeks

## C.

Casparius Zabriskie  
Cornelius Aeltse  
Cornels. Gerritse  
Cornelius Spier  
Cornelius H. Doremus  
Cornels. Vreeland  
Cornels. C. Doremus  
Cornels. Van Houton  
Cornels. Vangeson

## D.

Dirk Vreeland  
Dirk Die (Dey)  
Dirk Thomasse

## E.

Elias Vreeland  
Elias Ja. Vreeland  
Elias K. Vreeland  
Enoch Vreeland  
Evert Vanness  
Frans Spier  
Frans Koek (Cook)  
Frans J. Post

## J.

Johannis D. Vasnie  
Johannes Jeraemon  
Johannis Bicklie  
Johannis Stymets  
Jan Thomasse  
Jacob Spire (Spier)  
Jacob Vreeland  
Johannis Pouwelse  
Jurrie Aeltse (Van Ryper)  
Jan Van Veighte  
Jorris Wessels  
Johannes Post  
John Van Blerkum  
Jacobus Post  
Jacob Van Houten  
Jacob Smith  
Johannis Steger  
John Gould  
Jan Jacobusse  
Jacob Ryke  
Joris Stymets  
Johannis P. Ryke  
Joannis D. Vreeland  
Johannis Bruyn  
Johannis Jacobusse  
Johannis Brower  
Jacobus Van Wagenen  
Jacobus F. Spier  
Jacob Vanwinkle  
Johannis Pier  
John Doolhaagen

## K.

Klaas Vreeland  
Koenradis Bass

## L.

Lucas Wessells



**G.**

Garret Gerritse  
 Garret Harmanisse  
 Garret Stymets

**H.**

Hendrick Veltman  
 Harmen Jurriaense  
 Hendrick Van Wagenor  
 Hendrick Spier  
 Hartman Vreland  
 Hendrik Post  
 Hans Kierstede  
 Hendrick Boss  
 Hendrick H. Boss  
 Hendrick Messeker  
 Hendrick Frassisko  
 Helmigh Van Houten  
 Hendrick Jacobusse  
 Hermanus Van Wagenen  
 Hendrick Challer  
 Hartman E. Vreland  
 Helmigh Sip

**I.**

Isaac Vannes  
 Isaac Ryke

**M.**

Masselis Post  
 Marinus Vanwinkle  
 Michael Vreland

**N.**

Nickolas Ryke  
 Petrus Pieterse  
 Peter Stymets  
 Peter H. Pieterse  
 Peter Newkerck  
 Peter Jacobus  
 Peter Doremus  
 Peter Sanford  
 Peter Peterson  
 Peter Saunders

**R.**

Rynere Van houten  
 Richard Broadberry

**S.**

Simeon Vanwinkle

**T.**

Thomas Doremus  
 Teunis Spier

**W.**

Wessel Wessels





## CHAPTER XXIII.

### BUNDLING.

Among the customs of the first settlers hereabouts was one brought from Holland where it was known as "*geesting*"; a custom that prevailed in the British isles at the time of the Roman conquest, which led Caesar to speak of the inhabitants as *polyandrous polygamists*, and which, after that time, spread itself over Ireland, Scotland and Wales in so short a time that it was not long before it reached the Continental countries where it flourished for centuries. Old carried it to the New England; Germany sent it to Pennsylvania, while Holland planted firmly in the states of New York and New Jersey.

The English name for this custom and by which it was best known in this country, including New Jersey, was "Bundling," the legal description of which is: "A custom at one time prevalent in some sections of the United States of young, unmarried men and women, especially lovers, sleeping together in the same bed without undressing."

The highest courts of New York and Pennsylvania refused to recognize it and although the question was never brought to the attention of New Jersey's highest court, it seems only reasonable to believe that here, too, it would have failed recognition if for no other reason than that customs as such are not, nor were they ever, recognized in New Jersey.

While the subject is a delicate one, and by some considered better if left in oblivion, still it is not the province of an historian to hide what some might consider the black spots in history and present only the bright side to the world, and because history is experience teaching by example, it becomes necessary to present both sides before it is possible to extract the good or purge the bad in order to profit therefrom. As to the pioneers of this section of the country we must take them as history presents them; men of like passions as we, and subject to the same temptations, yet neither worse, nor very much purer nor better than we of the twentieth century.

Bundling is defined in the "*Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*" by Grose, as: "A man and woman lying on the same bed with their clothes on; an expedient practiced in America on a scarcity of beds, where on such occasions, husbands and parents frequently permitted travellers to bundle with their wives and daughters."

Webster defines it: "To sleep on the same bed, without undressing; applied to the custom of a man and woman, especially lovers, thus sleeping."

Worcester says it means: "To sleep together with the clothes on."

Bundling originally was the child of necessity, born at a time when a



home consisted of only one room, upon the floor of which at night a bed of rushes, brush, grass or leaves was laid on one side of the room, covered with a coarse kind of cloth, and all the family would lay down upon this bed without undressing. In winter they retired early to keep warm, as the hovels in which they lived were cold as ice houses.

When a lover called, he was invited to get under the cover and lie beside his best girl. He needed no second invitation, got under the cover, and was soon engaged in conversation until both fell asleep, or until the time came for him to go back to his own home. Many a promise of marriage was made while thus abed. As a recompense to the girl for the violation thereof by the young man, the Welsh law provided that upon complaint made by her to the court, she would be awarded a bull of three winters having its tail well shaven and greased and then thrust through the doorelate, whereupon the woman was to go inside the house, (the bull being outside with a man on either side of him) take hold of the tail, while the men prodded the animal with pointed sticks. If she succeeded in holding on to the tail the bull would belong to her; if not she should be entitled to the greese on her hands. Although this seems ridiculous it was the law as contained in "*Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales*," under William Fourth, page 390.

The custom of Bundling as it existed in Holland about the time of the immigration of the Dutch to this country was practiced in the following manner as described by a traveler: "At night the lover has access to his mistress after she is in bed, and upon application to be admitted to the bed, which is, of course, granted, he raises the quilt, or rug, and in this state *queests*, or enjoys a harmless chit-chat with her, and then retires."

Little, if any, courting was done during the day-time, because the maiden and man were too busy to permit of it.

In time, the custom spread from lovers' courtships to parties, balls, weddings, christenings, and sometimes followed funerals, all of which were held in the various homes of the farmers attended by neighbors from far and near. Very often it so happened that, because of intense cold, dark, dangerous, or risky roads, deep snow, continuous rains, physical indisposition, or other cause, one or more couples were prevented from taking the journey home, when they would be invited to remain and bundle, either at the house of their host, or one of the nearby neighbors, if the host were not able to accommodate all, which was frequently the case.

Some twenty-five years ago, Mr. Richard Post, ninety years old, told the writer that bundling was a common custom when he was a young man, and that he not only participated in, but thoroughly enjoyed them. He remembered bundling for the first time, following a party at the house of John Ackerman, near the corner of the present South and Sixth streets. He had brought his young lady from Stone House Plains,





in his best buggy. When the party ended, snow over a foot deep on the level and a bitter cold wind, put buggy riding out of question, and he received an invitation from Mrs. Ackerman to remain all night and bundle. He bundled. He gave other instances, none of which could compare to bundling which followed a wedding at Harmonis Vreeland's house, (which then as now, is the stone house away out on Bloomfield avenue near the city's limits, now owned by O'Leary company). The night was cold, stormy and windy, and at the close of festivities it was found impossible for some, who had come from a distance, to make the journey home, whereupon arrangements were made to have all married couples remain and go to bed, at the Vreeland home, while the unmarried should go to the home of John Sip, around on the lane of that name, (now Van Houten avenue), and bundle there. Six such couples trudged through the deep snow to Sip's home, where each couple bundled in separate beds, not only for one, but three successive nights, before the snow stopped falling and the roads fit for travel. John Sip himself not only confirmed this to the writer, but told of the bundlings in which he participated, as also did many others.

The custom prevailed here among the best families here and in New York and Connecticut until about 1835, when it fell under the ban of certain well known dominies who worked and preached against it until public feeling was turned against the practice and it ceased.

It was not always popular. So far back as 1725, Jacob Vandenburg wrote to Governor Burnett, complaining of bundling, characterizing it a "base and wicked custom in these parts." In time it came to be indulged in by visitors and well known traveling peddlers, who passed through the country at stated times yearly. Dirck Van Houten peddled through Old Acquackanonk, a favorite among many, and very much liked by the girls, for his fund of stories, jokes, songs and tricks, with which he regaled them. But he talked too much about his bundlings, which made it appear as if the custom was not what it should be, or as originally intended. The attention of good Dominie Bogardus being called thereto, he denounced the custom and called upon parents to forbid their boys and girls taking part in it. This soon ended it, and bundling as a general practice ceased, never to be resumed.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### THE REVOLUTION.

Before proceeding with the events of the war it may be of interest to learn of the condition of mind of the people and of their activities, just before and during the American Revolution. As usual, it will be noticed, that Passaic led the State in all these activities of assistance and kept the lead to the end.

The old French and Indian war, having lasted seven years (1755-1762), left Great Britain with a depleted treasury, and her debt 140,000,000 pounds.

The colonies as one man had lent their aid without reserve. On every field, the blood of the colonists had mingled with that of their English kinsmen, and the glories of war were the reward of their joint labors.

The colonists had not only respect, but a fondness for the King and government, and went arm in arm with the Prime Minister, William Pitt, one of the great master minds of Great Britain. Had he been retained in office, there would have been no war of the American Revolution. But, with the accession of George the Third to the throne in 1762, a youth of eighteen years, who failing to meet the high moral standards of Pitt, forced the latter to resign from his office and threw himself unreservedly into the hands of George Grenville, a Whig leader, to whom must be ascribed the alienation of the American Colonies. He determined that inasmuch as the cost of the war had been incurred for their defense, the colonies should share the burden of the tax. All the colonies had responded to the call for assistance in men, munitions and money. New Jersey alone furnished about \$400,000 for this seven years' war, and yet Grenville increased their customs, and restricted their commerce. But the colonies submitted without a murmur. In the early part of 1765, Mr. Grenville introduced his famous stamp act bill, which became a law on March 22nd, under which everything imported must bear a tax stamp.

Intense opposition was manifested to the stamp act. Led by the lawyers of this colony, who resolved to use no stamped paper, the people determined not only to do the same, but refused to have any dealings with the mother country. The act was to take effect November 1, 1765, before which time all stamped paper reaching this country was seized and destroyed by the irate Americans, who threatened to arrest and punish the man who would attempt to act as the King's agent in the sale of stamped paper.

All legal business ceased, and the court offices closed. Newspapers suspended publication. So earnest were the people that they, through



their Legislature, sent a memorial to the King, and a petition to Parliament, setting forth that inasmuch as the colonies had no representation in Parliament, they could not be taxed; that the right to tax was possessed only by the legislative body of any colony.

Parliament took notice and repealed the stamp act March 18, 1766, but followed it in 1767 with an act levying a tax on painters' colors, red and white lead, tea, glass and paper, which was founded on the erroneous belief that the colonists objected rather to the mode than to the right of taxation.

The colonists again refused to be taxed, and refused to receive any imports. So great was the opposition that in 1770 the tax was removed from everything but tea. This remained until 1773, when the proposition was made to sell them tea cheaper and with the tax of only three cents a pound. This was the last straw, and destroyed the peaceful period for the colonists.

Boston emptied the contents of 342 chests of tea, in 1774, overboard. As a punishment, her port was closed, and the custom house removed to Salem, and on November 22, 1774, forty men, dressed like Indians, destroyed by fire a boat load of tea at Greenwich, N. J.

In the meantime, the colonies having lost all confidence in their British rulers, were watching Parliament as a cat watches a mouse, and in order that each colony might be informed of what was transpiring, Massachusetts conceived the plan of uniting all of them in one system of measures, which was; to elect committees in the several townships and towns for the purpose of corresponding with each other and with the other colonies.

All adopted the measure. These town committees elected county, and they in turn elected State committees. The township of Acquackanonk, including Passaic, was the first to take action in this State. Henry Garritse, Dr. Roche, Michael Vreeland, and Dr. De Graw, of Clifton, joined in a call for the first meeting to be held at Newark, June 11, 1774. At this meeting, after recounting their grievances, it was resolved not to purchase or use any article of British manufacture, and appointed a County Committee on Correspondence, consisting of nine prominent citizens, among whom was Henry Garritse. Other meetings were held in every county, not only in this, but in other Colonies.

On November 28, 1774, this committee gave public notice that all persons who were indifferent to the welfare and protection of their country in these critical times were to be held up to the public notice as unfriendly to the liberties of their country, and all dealings with him or her to be broken off, and giving notice of a meeting to elect a Committee of Observation for Acquackanung, to be held December 12, at the bridge, opposite the house of Timothy Day.

The bridge was the one crossing the Passaic River, at the present Birch Lumber Company's yard. Timothy Day kept tavern in a stone







ANCIENT TAVERN



THE TAP HOUSE ON THE HILL—WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS



house on the westerly side of the present River drive, until recently Main avenue.

The records of this meeting are not in existence. But subsequent events show that a committee was appointed whose activities resulted in an important meeting set forth below.

It is evident that not only during the Revolution, but for a year before, careful watch and scrutiny were given every person who failed to come out openly and espouse the cause of the Colonies. The records bear witness of many arrests for disloyalty in the adjoining county of Bergen, but fail to show any in this neighborhood.

James Leslie succeeded Timothy Day at the tavern, April, 1775. Timothy Day had come here from Morristown in the early part of 1770 and remained about four years, returning to Morristown where he successfully conducted a tavern during the Revolution. The present caterers of Newark, Asbury Park and Morristown are direct descendants of Timothy's son, Israel, born December 22, 1765. While here, he conducted a race track in the present Wallington, over the road which extended from Paterson avenue to Eighth street bridge.

Leslie came from Newark and was a descendant of the family of that name among the first settlers of that town in 1666. He entertained Washington on the twenty-second day of November, 1776, while the latter was retreating before the British. It was at this memorable tavern that the following meeting was held:

Meeting of Inhabitants of Acquackanonk, Essex County, New Jersey.

At meeting of freeholders and inhabitants of Township of Acquackanonk, in said County, held at Mr. James Leslie's near Acquackanonk Bridge, on Wednesday, third day of May, Anno Domino, 1775, an association was then and there entered into and subscribed by the Freeholders and inhabitants of said township, being verbatim the same as that entered by the Freeholders and inhabitants at Newark, in said County. The following gentlemen were then chosen or elected a General Committee agreeable to said association:

Michael Vreeland, Esq., in the chair; Henry Garritse, Peter Peterse, John Berry, Robert Drummond, Francis Post, Thomas Post, Daniel Niel, Richard Ludlow, Captain Abraham Godwin, John Spier, Jacob Van Riper, Lucas Wessels, Frances Van Winkle, Cornelius Van Winkle, Henry Post, Jr., Doctor Walter De Graw, John Peer, Jacob Garritse, Jacob Vreeland, Abraham Van Riper and Stephen Ryder. Doctor Nicholas Roche, Committee Clerk.

Of the same number were chosen the following delegates: To attend the Provincial Convention to be held at Trenton, the 23rd inst., agreeable to aforesaid resolution, to represent said township: Henry Garritse, Robert Drummond, Michael Vreeland and John Berry, Esquires.

Peter Peterse, Esq., Daniel Niel, Richard Ludlow, Thomas Post and Doctor Nicholas Roche were appointed a committee of correspondence for said township. Daniel Niel was deputy chairman to the general committee, and Richard Ludlow, deputy clerk.

Of these men, Robert Drummond, Henry Garritse, Michael Vree-







land and John Berry were members of Provincial Congress, Trenton, May, June and August, 1775.

Drummond was a member of and attended October session at Trenton, and from January 31 to March 2, 1776, at New Brunswick. At the last meeting he was ordered paid £9 35s. 4d. for removing the treasury and records in the secretary's office at Perth Amboy to New Brunswick. He continued a member during sessions begun at Burlington, June 10, 1776, and continued by adjournment at Trenton and New Brunswick, to August 21. On August 21 there was ordered paid: To Captain R. Drummond, £1 14s. 11d. in full for Nicholas Roche's account of expenses and medicines for the militia when marching to Long Island.

Robert Drummond was wealthy, and in addition to conducting a general store at the bridge, he owned and operated iron mines at Charlotteburg, in the upper part of the county. He occupied a beautiful home on the present Speer Chateau property, River drive, lately Main avenue. Unfortunately, he changed completely about and in less than a year deserted the cause of the Colonists, became a rabid Loyalist, recruited a company of 200 men from Bergen county, and at their head enlisted for the King. His whole estate was confiscated to the State, and he became a fugitive. After the war, he went to England and died in Chelsea hospital a few years later.

Of the men on that committee, Michael Vreeland, the chairman, Henry Garritse, Peter Peterse, John Berry, John Speer, Jacob Van Riper, Cornelius Van Winkle, Henry Post, Jr., Dr. Walter De Graw, Jacob Garritse, John Peer, Abraham Van Riper, Stephen Ryder and Dr. Roche resided within the limits of the present city of Clifton. Michael E. Vreeland was wealthy, and of good education, and very prominent and popular. He resided on Dundee drive, a short distance south of Crooks avenue. Until lately, a notorious road house stood upon the site of his old home.

Henry Garritse was the most influential, prominent and popular man of his day, and the one who furnished secret information of great value to the American army, and the only man here who had the honor of a visit from General Washington. Garritse's house, with little changes, may still be seen, in good condition, at No. 463 Lexington avenue, owned and occupied by Mr. Cornelius Pontier. What a fine thing it would be for the city to preserve the old place for future generations!

Peter Peterse resided in a stone house, still standing at the corner of Levington and Kipp avenues, although so changed in appearance as to be hardly recognized. Jacob Garritse resided on Lexington avenue, above Peterse, where he had a grist mill. Dr. Roche boarded with him.

Jacob Van Riper, a farmer, resided near the Passaic Poor House Farm.

John Speer, Cornelius Van Winkle and Abraham Van Riper, and John Berry, resided at the "Reef," now Delawanna. Berry formed



the Yantieaw pond, where he had a paper mill, subsequently acquired by the Curtis family, now publishers of the Ladies' Home Journal.

Dr. A. Ward Van Riper, of Passaic, is a direct descendant of the Abraham Van Riper of this committee.

During the entire period of the war, this committee continued its labors, with undiminished zest, and as time went on, assumed the role of committee on food conservation and hospital relief. The members served gratuitously, and were indefatigable in their efforts to serve their country.

Last, but not least of the men who helped attain liberty for the colonies, was John H. Post, who with other farmer boys, sallied forth in the afternoon of November 21, 1776, to go to Quacknic Bridge, where, it was rumored, Washington was expected to arrive that day, which he did, and in order to prevent the enemy from crossing, Post, at the head of a party of husky farmers, men and boys, destroyed the bridge.

Acquaackanonk Bridge was headquarters for all activities of the war for miles around, and a stronghold of the Americans.

Loyalists were not tolerated, and Tories, if there were any, did not make themselves known.

It was on the evening of July 3, 1776, that a rousing meeting was held in the ball room of the old tavern to consider the question of defence, in case of invasion by the enemy. At that time Acquaackanonk was an important point, situate on a road which was the main artery of travel from South to North, besides boasting of a bridge, the only one on the river between here and Newark. In fact, the advantages possessed by the place were shortly afterward realized by General Washington, who established headquarters here, under General Lord Stirling, which were maintained throughout the whole period of the war. The meeting on the night in question was presided over by Benjamin Helme, a lawyer, who at that time resided in a house which stood near the building of the Young Men's Christian Association. Garret Van Riper was secretary. Lawyer Helme made a rattling good speech, urging upon the men loyalty, not to the King, but to the cause of liberty. Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, having, on June 7, introduced in Congress his famous resolution declaring that "These United Colonies are and of right ought to be, free and independent States," those present at this meeting at old Acquaackanonk were called upon and urged to stand by this declaration, and not only preach, but fight for its principles. Speeches were also made by John Sip, John Jacob Vreeland and others, farmers hereabouts, who, however, advised caution, calling attention to the fact that most of them had landed possessions, which were at stake. Those who spoke thus, were no doubt influenced by one Robert Drummond, a merchant, who at that very time, kept a general store across the street from the tavern. There was also present at this meeting a Benjamin Booth, from what is now Delawanna. He took no part





in the proceedings, and yet, despite all that was said, he chose to join himself to Drummond, abandoning valuable real estate, which likewise was confiscated and sold.

While it may seem surprising that there were so few deserters from the ranks of the citizens, still it is not to be wondered at when we consider the great influence exerted over the people hereabouts by the old war horse, the Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker, pastor of the old Reformed Church, who was at this meeting. Never had the cause of Freedom a more vigorous supporter. He not only prayed and preached, but worked for the cause; going about the country and encouraging the inhabitants to fight, and fight hard. It is said of him that so earnest was he, that many a time, while preaching on the duties of citizenship, or while urging the men to fight for God and their land, he could not restrain his emotions, which expressed themselves in tears. The influence of this minister was wide and powerful. His field or parish was very large, extending from what is now Belleville on the south, to the New York State line on the north; from near Hackensack on the east to Morris county on the west, and of all the land owners within this territory, it is safe to say that three-fourths of the adult population were connected directly or indirectly with this church. The reverend gentleman made good use of his opportunity to speak at the meeting. He made a ringing address, explaining matters in a logical way, so that all understood, and urged them to support Lee's resolution.

Three militia companies were organized in Acquackanonk township, attached to Colonel Philip Van Cortland's regiment of Essex county, June 28, 1775:

*First Company*—Capt. Henry Garritse, jr. 1st Lieut. Thomas Post, 2d Lieut. Michael Vreeland, jr. Ensign. Abraham Van Houten. All these excepting Post resided in the present Clifton.

*Second Company*—Capt. Robert Drummond. 1st Lieut. Tunis Joralemon, 2d Lieut. Richard Vreeland, Ensign, Anthony Waters. All but Joralemon resided in the present city of Passaic as also did Thomas Post of the first company.

*Third Company*—Capt. Francis Post, 1st Lieut. Peter Van Ness, 2d Lieut. Cornelius Spier, Ensign, Richard Stanton. All of the Notch neighborhood.

An act of Congress passed June 3, 1775, provided for the enrollment and equipment of "Minute men" to turn out on a moment's notice.

To reinforce the American army at New York, an ordinance was passed June 14, 1776, whereby five battalions were ordered raised. Later several regiments were organized. In the Second, Dr. Nicholas Roche, who resided at the present Dundee Lake, was Surgeon of the South Battalion.

Under the above act of June 3, 1775, the Eastern Company of Artillery was organized March 1, 1776, of which Daniel Neil was made captain-lieutenant. He resided in the present city of Passaic. He was also adjutant of Van Cortland's Essex county regiment.





Not all of the officers responded to calls to turn out, a number of them flatly refusing, while others offered incapacity, ill health and bodily infirmities as excuses. Of course neither was sufficient to relieve them, and all such were arrested and taken before a justice of the peace who either fined or imprisoned them. Squire Van Houten before whom those of this neighborhood were taken was very severe on the prisoners, too much so when we find many of his fines remitted by the higher court on appeal.

Following the concentration of the British forces on the easterly side of the Hudson after the battle of White Plains, October 28, 1776, Washington predicted that they would enter New Jersey, and his engineers were instructed to make a careful survey and record the same on maps, which were submitted to Washington who selected Acquackanonk Bridge, where his troops would be safe. In addition, this bridge was the most important military point in northern New Jersey. It was on the main military road leading in all directions, and was the only bridge spanning the navigable waters of the Passaic river.

In order to make this point impregnable, General Greene was sent there to fortify it. He constructed ramparts along the river shore both above and below the bridge in which he placed several cannon, loosened every plank on the structure in anticipation of being able to quickly dismantle the structure's roadway, and stretched heavy chains across each end. This was early in November, 1776, and on the 9th, General Stephen, then at Trenton, was ordered to proceed with his brigade to Equacanock, presumably to assist General Green, who was still there. On the 10th, General Mercer arrived with his troops, so that by this time Acquackanonk Bridge began to realize that the fingers of war were beginning to reach her, particularly when Lord Stirling on the 14th crossed the bridge and entered the sleepy village with eight regiments on his way to Rahway.

In anticipation of the coming of the British, Washington had advised the farmers either to cart all movable stuff, two or three miles back into the country or destroy it. His advice was not heeded to the sorrow of every farmer.

#### WASHINGTON'S RETREAT.

After the loss of Fort Lee, November 16, 1776, Washington retreated over the Hackensack river and took post in the village of that name. Fearing to be hemmed in between that river and the Passaic, he determined to push on to Acquackanonk Bridge. Simultaneously with his departure, he wrote and despatched the following letter:

To the President of Congress.

Hackinsac, 21 November, 1776.

Sir: The unhappy affair of the 16th has been succeeded by further misfortunes. Yesterday morning a large body of the enemy landed between Dobbs's Ferry and



Fort Lee. Their object was, evidently, to enclose the whole of our troops and stores that lay between the North and Hackensac Rivers, which form a very narrow neck of land. For this purpose, they formed and marched as soon as they had ascended the high grounds towards the fort. Upon the first information of their having landed, and of their movements, our men were ordered to meet them; but, finding their numbers greatly superior, and that they were extending themselves to seize on the passes over the river, it was thought prudent to withdraw our men; which was effected, and their retreat secured. We lost the whole of the cannon that were at the fort, except two twelve-pounders, and a great deal of baggage, between two and three hundred tents, about a thousand barrels of flour, and other stores in the quartermaster's department. This loss was inevitable. As many of the stores had been removed as circumstances and time would admit of. The ammunition had been happily got away.

Our present situation between Hackinsac and Passaic Rivers being exactly similar to our late one, and our force here by no means adequate to an opposition, that will promise the smallest probability of success, we are taking measures to retire over the waters of the latter, when the best disposition will be formed that circumstances will allow. By Colonel Cadwalader, who has been permitted by General Howe to return to his friends, I am informed the surrender of the garrison on the 16th was on the common terms as prisoners of war; the loss of the Hessians, about three hundred privates and twenty-seven officers killed and wounded; about forty of the British troops, and two or three officers; the loss on our side but inconsiderable. I beg leave to refer you to him for a more particular account, and also for his relation of the distresses of our prisoners.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. Your favor of the 16th was duly received. My letter to the Board of War, on the subject of the return of the Waldeckers, I presume you will have seen.

To his great surprise, Washington found Bergen county a hot bed of Toryism, giving aid secretly and openly to the enemy and refusing to assist Washington. He complained of this most bitterly in a letter to Governor Livingston wherein he speaks of the apathy of the people, their refusal to assist, and their total lack of interest in the success of the cause. Because the enemy had offered peace, prosperity and protection, a majority of the inhabitants refused their aid to carry on the war. Spies were everywhere, making false reports, and spreading false rumors concerning Washington, who single handed and alone bore the brunt of it all.

In addition to this, Washington realized that he could make no stand against the enemy and must move before he became hemmed in between the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, where, because of the open, flat country, little protection could be afforded his poorly clad troops. More than half had no shoes on their feet, which were bound in straw, while their clothing meagre as it was, was worn to tatters. David Gordon, one of the soldiers, in his published "Recollections of the Retreat," says that for want of shoes his feet were encased in hay. But even that did not protect his bleeding feet from the rough, uneven ground and the cold.

It was in this condition of mind and under such circumstances that





Washington began his retreat from Hackensack, in the afternoon, and arrived at Acquackanonk Bridge (Passaic) about dusk of November 21, 1776, where the river was crossed, after which the bridge was destroyed by a body of young men of the neighborhood under the leadership of John H. Post, a farmer boy, thereby preventing the enemy from crossing. Washington put up in the Blanchard House where he spent that night. This house, destroyed by fire in 1877, stood at the entrance to the bridge, opposite the Birch Lumber yard. A tablet set in the wall, may be seen reading:

#### The Blanchard House

Washington's Headquarters, November 21, 1776, was situated about 100 feet west of this tablet.

The entrance to the old Revolutionary bridge was nearly opposite this spot.

November 21, 1776, was very cold and rainy, and everything was most cheerless, and yet, was one of the most exciting days old Acquackanonk Landing had ever seen, and it is doubtful if any day since has witnessed anything like the alarm witnessed on that day. Every man, woman and child was on the alert, alarmed and excited, dreading not so much the coming of the soldiers, but fearful of the bloody carnage that might result.

The old town had been on the anxious seat for a day or so. The citizens had been informed of the exciting events that had taken place since the battle of Long Island. They were familiar with the battle of Harlem Heights, and the surrender of Fort Washington. But as these occurred on New York soil, they thought that the operations would extend northerly, on the easterly side of the Hudson. When, however, news was brought that both armies had crossed that river; that Fort Lee had been evacuated; that the American army, with Washington, was obliged to flee to Hackensack, the old inhabitants of this ancient village began to be alarmed, figuring out that if Washington were to continue his retreat by the shortest and most expeditious route across New Jersey (which it was rumored he would do), he would pass through this place. In fact, he would be obliged to come here, because at this place there was a bridge across the Passaic.

It being also known that Cornwallis was closely following Washington, it was figured out that Washington would not linger long at Hackensack, and, therefore, might arrive here very shortly, consequently all was excitement and confusion. To go back to the days of '76, a description of the old town, then known as Acquackanonk Landing, and, by Washington, referred to in his letter, written here on that eventful day, "Acquackanonk Bridge," may not be out of place. There was only one street or road in the Landing, now known as River drive, which led from Newark to Paterson. This road is now Prospect street where at present that street, so named, leaves the drive and crosses the Erie



tracks at Prospect street station and continues northerly past the Municipal Building, crossing the Erie again and continuing toward Paterson over our Lexington avenue. Main avenue, north of its junction with lower Prospect street was not in existence.

Of this crossing of the bridge, a Jersey poet said years afterward:

"Trampl—Trampl—Trampl—Trampl  
What flying band with thundering tread  
Along the bridge disordered led,  
With rapid and alarming stamp  
Now hurries o'er the tide?"

"Waking the pattering echoes far and wide?  
On—on they come—tumultuous come!  
With rattling arms and clamoring drum:  
Till all the wooden arches round  
Challenge aloud the intruding sound.  
And clank for clank, and stamp for stamp rebound!"

"Thus spake a stranger to the crowd  
New-gathered on Passaic's banks,  
Drawn by the din of trampling ranks,  
Resounding far, and loud."

The bridge then crossed the river from about the center of the Birch lumber yard. Adjoining the entrance to the bridge, on the south, or lower side, was a general store kept by an Englishman, Robert Drummond. The building was of brick, scant two stories in height, extending from road to the river. Drummond was one of the very successful merchants here. In addition to his store, he owned an iron mine in the upper end of the county, operated a line of freight boats on the river, and owned much real estate. He had married into the rich and influential Vreeland family, became popular, got into politics, and went to Congress.

Just below and adjoining Drummond's store, on the south, was the Landing proper, from which the place took its name. It was a long dock along the river. Back from the dock, with a driveway through the center, was a two-story building used as a warehouse entirely, excepting the south end, wherein was another store used by Drummond in connection with his mining, transportation and real estate business, in which last mentioned store was the first postoffice of the place established. Opposite the entrance to the bridge, on the opposite side of the road, on the hill, was a tavern. The old church was there, of course, looking out over the scenes, as it had then already done nearly a century then past, and still does.

Adjoining the church was the old "red school house on the hill," which had existed as long as the church. Extending northerly along the road from the bridge was: First, Zabriskie's general store; next to that another tavern; beyond that the store of James I. Post, where one could get spirits, charged for at the rate of one penny a finger. The three fingers was the one most generally called for. Above this again was Van Riper's blacksmith shop.





Nearly opposite, with its large yard, in a fine state of cultivation, with its many trees and shrubs and the remains of the late summer foliage, was the parsonage property of the old church. The old house was razed in May, 1921, and, judging by its appearance, must have been one of the finest houses of that time. Just above and at the apex of the present Main avenue and Prospect street, lived Squire Van Houten.

In order to get to the back end of their farms, which extended from the river to the mountain, the farmers laid out an occasional cross road, calling the same Drift Way. One so laid was called Weasel Driftway—now Crooks avenue, at the corner of which and the River road lived Henry Doremus.

Every farmer from the bridge to the old Driftway was aroused. As Paterson was not in existence then, this place was headquarters for everything. On the morning of that day, November 21, the farmers started for the Landing to learn and discuss the matters uppermost in their minds and, if necessary, take such measures as were necessary. At first some of the men visited the stores and some the taverns, where conversation raged hot and heavy. Those who stopped at Drummond's were not long in finding out where his sympathies were and, with the exception of his father-in-law, Vreeland, soon left and went to the tavern, where a great crowd gathered, among them young John H. Post, who received his baptism of enthusiasm from James Leslie who was heart and soul in sympathy with the Colonists. A rousing meeting was held, full of fight and enthusiasm, every man offering himself to fight for liberty. At the head of them stood young Post, a large, able bodied, vigorous youth, whose enthusiasm was as great as that of any of the men who promised to enlist, which he subsequently did.

The old minister was there, too, and added much to the encouragement and enthusiasm by a ringing speech, made with all the earnestness of a godly, sincere man. The decision of the conference was that the men, under Post, should destroy the bridge, after Washington should have crossed, to prevent the British from crossing. To decide was to act, and immediately a body of men was formed to station themselves at the old bridge, ready for service. Some of the men we know, among them being Leslie, the tavern keeper, who had been born and bred in Essex county, and was an earnest supporter of the struggle for freedom.

Another, who had watched the course of events since the first shot was fired at Lexington and whose enthusiasm knew no bounds, was John Van Wagoner, the owner of what has since been known as the Van Wagoner farm, extending from the river to the mountain, through which Gregory avenue runs, and whose old dwelling house still stands, corner River drive and Gregory avenue. At this very time he was erecting the house, but it was unfinished; it lacked the roof, upon which the carpenters were then working, assisted by Van Wagoner, who was but a youth.





When the tidings came of the approach of the army, he abandoned his work and rushed to the tavern. From that day he was never heard of, or from, again. It was surmised that he followed the army, was killed, and his identity being unknown by the officers, was buried as an unknown. His departure has since remained unexplained.

Another enthusiastic young man was Richard Van Riper, who ran all the way from his father's house on the River road, near the present Brook avenue, to the tavern, eager to assist in every way. They were his sisters who shortly afterward hid behind a large tree while the British plundered their home.

From still farther away came Robert Ennis, who lived at the reef (Delawanna), and who arrived at the tavern in time to learn all particulars and ready for any service. The next year he was hung.

From across the river came John (afterwards Captain) Vreeland, who had always possessed a desire to be a soldier, and now he thought he saw his opportunity, which he embraced by enlisting then and there. In addition to these men there were Henry and Ralph Speer, Walling Van Winkle, John Van Riper, John Sip, Richard Vreeland, John Ackerman, prominent in the community, and large land owners, besides many others less prominent, who, although poor in worldly possessions, were rich in patriotism.

The old bridge stood immediately opposite, across the road from the tavern, along the whole front of which were two piazzas, one for the first and the other for the second story. Opening upon each were a door and four windows. In anticipation of the coming of Washington, many women had flocked to the tavern. They, with their children, entered the tavern and occupied the piazzas. A committee of which the Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker was the head, stood in the door yard, a few yards out from the front door, awaiting the coming of Washington. 'Twas Thursday afternoon, of a cool, November day. In addition to the crowds of people there were scores of farm wagons standing along the road below the hill and upon the large open space in front of the church. In those days news traveled very slowly, and while Washington's coming was heralded, it was not known that the British were following so closely.

Washington's coming had been planned to assume the nature of a grand reception, anything in the form of which did not occur in Hackensack, where that very day residents of Bergen county were flocking and enlisting in the British army. To them the retreat of Washington spelled defeat, and, because they wanted to be found at the end with the winner, they joined the ranks of the King, something they were subsequently ashamed of and sorry for. Editor Winton, of Hackensack, once told the writer that in attempting to write a biographical history of Hackensack, he found that after eliminating the Tory and Loyalist



families, there were left so few as to make insufficient matter for a respectable sized book.

Such was not the case here, where the entire community was loyal to Washington, even at this early day. Everything was orderly, and in readiness for the reception. At that time there was only one house across the river, where is now Wallington, and that one, the Walling Van Winkle homestead, which stood at the corner of the roads where the trolley leaves the River road. Walling and his brother, John, were at the tavern with the crowd. A clear, unobstructed view was had from the tavern to where now is the old Town Hall. Just before sunset the van of Washington's army appeared in view, led by Washington and two of his Generals, on horseback. At this point a committee from this town met them and acted as convoy to the bridge. Richard Van Winkle, who recently died at an advanced age and who was a great grandson of Walling, who had the story from his grandsire, told the writer that Walling on horseback was one of the convoys, and that instead of following the road the army was led across fields to the bridge. There were about 3,000 soldiers in line, he was informed, who, without halting, passed over the bridge, and, with the exception of the more important officers, encamped in what is now the cemetery surrounding the old church. Washington started from the bridge to cross the road and ascend a flight of steps to the top of the hill, where the tavern stood, and the crowd awaited him, accompanied by the Rev. Schoonmaker and a lawyer, Benjamin Helme. Washington was welcomed by rousing cheers, followed by a short address of welcome by the good dominie, supplemented by a short speech by Lawyer Helme. The former told how earnestly he and his people were working for the success of the cause for which with Washington at their head the colonists were fighting. Lawyer Helme told of the numerous public meetings that had been held in this old tavern to advocate the cause of liberty, when resolutions were passed (which he then read) pledging their support to Washington. The latter replied with thanks for the kindly welcome, laying great stress upon the pleasure afforded him of meeting with so many loyal friends, whom he advised to be courageous, as he believed the God of Battles would bring them victory.

Washington was then taken into the tavern and assigned his quarters in which he spent the night.

The committee having charge of the affair was presented with the following bill:

Michael Vreeland, Chairman of Com.	Acquackanonk Bridge, Nov. 22, 1776
To James Leslie, Tavern Keeper, Dr.	
To 3 bottles of toddy for soldiers at work on the bridge	6 shillings.
Received Payment,	
	JAMES LESLIE.





Although the old tavern was best known as the Blanchard House, James Leslie was the proprietor for several years after April 1, 1775, including November, 1776, when Washington visited there and Lord Stirling lived there while in charge of the bridge guards.

It was after the war, when Leslie was succeeded by Hiram, brother of Rinear Blanchard, (who at the outbreak of the war became first lieutenant in Captain Potter's company, 3d Battalion, 1st Establishment, February 7, 1776, but later resigned, became a Loyalist, and joined the army of the King, at the request, as is supposed, of his old friend, Robert Drummond), that it was called Blanchard House.

It is not likely that Hiram attempted to engage in business here among his brother's former enemies until some years after the war, when passions had subsided, and the war had, in a measure, been forgotten. It seems more likely that he kept the tavern between 1790 and 1800, when he was succeeded by Cornelius Van Winkle, and this accounts for Blanchard's name being associated with the tavern.

A few words describing the old tavern may be of interest to the readers. Originally the building had been erected about 1713, and used as the parsonage of the Reformed Dutch Church at Acquackanonk, until about 1754, when it was turned into a tavern. The building was an extra fine specimen of the best kind of Dutch houses erected hereabouts in those early days. It was two stories high and along the entire front of both stories, wide, covered piazzas extended. On the first floor front were two rooms separated by a wide hallway, at the far end of which was the dining room, while back of that were the kitchen and its additions. The walls on the sides facing the east and north were three feet thick; those on the south and west sides, two feet. The windows on the first floor were small affairs, three feet square, the bottom sills of which were raised the height of a man's head from the floor. Some persons believed that these little windows were put in during the war and used as port holes from which cannons were fired.

The second floor was similarly divided. Washington occupied the room at the southeast corner from which he had an unobstructed view toward the east, whence he had come and to the south whence he was going.

An eye witness relates that supper was served to Washington and his staff in the dining room, Washington sitting at the southerly end of the table. The conversation naturally was the events of the day, and Washington took occasion to express his appreciation of the cordial reception accorded them here. This led to the suggestion by one of the officers that an invitation be extended to the citizens, to wait upon Washington after supper, for the purpose of information or suggestion they might give. Upon request the host stepped out into the bar room and reading room and gave the invitation.

Immediately after supper Washington, with his secretary and part



of his staff, repaired to the upper room, and there received, conversed and advised with a number of men. Among the important topics discussed and upon which Washington desired information were: The harvest—was it good or poor and how much could be spared to the army? Were horses and mules, or either, plentiful and how many for the army? And the men. How were they disposed? Were they with him or against him?

Although no record was kept of the doings at that meeting, Washington must have profited by it, because of the fact that his advisers were the best men of the neighborhood.

While the meeting was going on, and also all night, guards and patrols surrounded the house, while the troops bivouacked upon the ground in the rear—including the old grave yard. One of the old guards, David Gordon, in speaking of the matter in after years, said: That because of the mud the retreat was called the "Mud Rounds," during which the soldiers suffered very much. The roads, during the first part of the march, were almost impassable quagmires; which became frozen before the march was ended—an awful road indeed for bare-footed soldiers, of whom there were many in the diminished ranks of Washington, whose great heart bled in pity for them. And yet these wasted regiments never distrusted Washington, whose virtue and greatness shone resplendently in that darkest hour. To appear calm and confident, as if he were pursuing the foe, instead of conducting a retreat—this was heroism; this was faith in the belief that right made might. And at this point the fame of Washington received the image and superscription, which shall challenge the veneration of mankind in the ages to come.

After the men had departed, Washington wrote a letter to Governor Livingston as follows:

To Governor Livingston, New Jersey.

Aquackanoc Bridge, 21 November, 1776.

Sir: I have this moment arrived at this place with General Beall's and General Heard's brigades from Maryland and Jersey, and part of General Ewing's from Pennsylvania. Three other regiments, left to guard the passes from Hackinsac River, and to serve as covering parties, are expected up this evening. After the unfortunate loss of Fort Washington, it was determined to evacuate Fort Mifflin in a great measure, as it was in a manner useless in obstructing the passage of the North River, without the assistance of Fort Washington. The ammunition and some other stores were accordingly removed; but, before we could effect our purpose, the enemy landed yesterday morning, in very considerable numbers, about six miles above the fort. Their intent evidently was to form a line across, from the place of their landing to Hackinsac Bridge, and thereby hem in the whole garrison between the North and Hackinsac Rivers. However, we were lucky enough to gain the bridge before them; by which means we saved all our men, but were obliged to leave some hundred barrels of flour, most of our cannon, and a considerable parcel of tents and baggage.

Finding we were in the same danger of being pent up between Hackinsac and





Passaic Rivers, that we had been between the North and Hackinsac; and finding the country, from its levelness and openness, unfit for making a stand, it was determined to draw the whole of our force to this side of the river, where we can watch the operations of the enemy, without danger of their surrounding us or making a lodgment in our rear. But, as our numbers are still very inadequate to that of the enemy, I imagine I shall be obliged to fall down towards Brunswick, and form a junction with the troops, already in that quarter, under the command of Lord Stirling. As the term of the enlistment of the Flying Camp, belonging to Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, is near expiring, it will occasion so great a diminution of my army, that I submit it to your judgment, whether it would not be proper for you to call together such a number of militia, as, in conjunction with the troops I shall have left, will serve to cover the country and stop the progress of the enemy, if they should attempt to penetrate. If the weather continues favorable, I am apprehensive that they will attempt to make amends for the slowness of their operations at the beginning of the campaign. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

The rear guard referred to in this letter, crossed the bridge about midnight, and the next day, November 22, the bridge was made useless for passing over.

As will be observed further along in this work, a tablet and monument were erected by the pupils of the public schools of Passaic to commemorate the crossing of the bridge.

Not all of the American troops left for Newark on November 22d, but at least one whole regiment remained here several days, according to the diary of General Samuel Smith, of Pennsylvania, who accompanied the army on its retreat from Hackensack. He was then a captain in Smallwood's Regiment. On their march from Hackensack they destroyed all houses containing military stores, "and the regiment retired to Acquaconunk Bridge, where it halted some days, because the men were worn down with fatigue and guard duty."

At the commencement of the war, and in order to raise troops, the British Government offered a commission to any young gentleman who should raise a company of at least sixty men. Robert Drummond, who had military aspirations, gathered over two hundred recruits and received his commission of captain early in 1776. Previous to this he had been on the side of the Americans. Because of his wealth and good standing in the community, a number of young men of Bergen county followed his example, raised companies of sixty or more and were made captains without any military qualifications.

Accompanying the American army on this retreat was Thomas Paine, the author of "The Crisis," which he commenced to write, while Washington was writing his letter to the Governor. At the very moment Washington was writing, Paine opened with the famous words: "These are the times that try men's souls."

This he was led to do because of the following circumstances related





to the writer by a grandson of old David Gordon, who was on guard duty that night, and by a descendant of Lucas Wessels, who in the role of the present day sexton, had charge of the church property.

Just before dark Generals Irvine, Heard and Thomas Paine were on a tour of inspection of the old tombs, many of which were of the pioneer settlers here, accompanied by Gordon and Wessels. The latter, being an old settler and acquainted, either personally or by reputation with all the old men there buried, spoke of the difficulties encountered, the troubles met with the hard manual work performed by these hardy sons of toil, to whom a debt of gratitude was owing, whereupon Paine replied to the effect that while those were days of great physical endurance and fatigue, trying only to physical powers, "These are the days that try men's souls;" that "in those earlier days the greatest wrenching and breaking was of roots of trees and rocks while at this time the wrenching is of the soul and the breaking of the heart. Then the great questions: Shall I break with my King, become separate from my friends, and perhaps sacrifice all property, even life itself, or go, as a beggar into exile, never arose, but they arise now, and to solve them tries the soul of every man before they come."

Mr. Gordon was so impressed with the solemn tone in which the words were spoken that he never forgot them.

During the period of the Revolutionary War Old Acquackanonk was the center of military operations for northern New Jersey and the most strategic point in the entire colony. Washington and his military cabinet became aware of the advantages it possessed from a military standpoint, at the beginning of hostilities, took possession at once and maintained it to the end, against at least six attempts of the enemy to wrest it from the Americans who were commanded to hold it at all cost of blood and money, and it was strongly held.

Washington had his headquarters at Fishkill and Fredericksburg, above Newburgh, from September 23 to November 28, 1778, when he left Fredericksburg, to go into winter quarters at Middlebrook, this State. In a letter to Congress dated October 3, Washington wrote:

The enemy in the Jerseys having received a reinforcement and made some forward movements, I had thought it expedient to detach another brigade thither to act in conjunction with the one already there, together with Pulaski's corps and the militia, and sent Major General Lord Stirling to take the command of the whole.

Three days later Washington wrote the following letter to Stirling:

Headquarters, Fishkill, Oct. 6, 1778.

My Lord: I have just now the honor of your letters of the 4th and 5th inst. As we are often obliged to reason on the designs of the enemy, from the appearances which come under our own observation or are drawn from our spies, we cannot be too attentive to those things which may afford us new light. Every minutiae should have a place in our collection; for things seemingly of a trifling nature when conjoined with others of a more serious cast, may lead to very valuable conclusions. The particular kind of forage, &c., which the enemy are now amassing in Jersey, may have a



tendency this way, whether it is long or short—such as is actually stored in their magazines for the winter, or provided as subsistence on sea voyages. You will endeavor, My Lord, with as much expedition as possible, to ascertain these matters of information, as well as to collect such other circumstances and facts, as may be useful to form our judgment as to their design or destination. I am, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most ob't serv't,

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. You will be pleased to forward the inclosed to Dr. Griffith. To Major Lord Stirling.

The letter is written on thick, white manuscript paper, so largely used then, with water lines an inch apart. Envelopes being unknown, the letter was folded, sealed with red wax, bearing the following address: "(Public Service) Hon'ble Major General Lord Stirling, at Aquaknonk. G. Washington." Lord Stirling had endorsed the letter as follows: "From Gen'l Washington, Oct. 6, 1778."

Like all of Washington's official letters, this was in the writing of his secretary, all but the signature both at the end, and on the outside which was written by Washington himself.

Within a week after receiving this letter, Lord Stirling was in receipt of one from Colonel Dayton, who was stationed at Second River, (now Belleville) the purport of which is apparent in his letter of reply which is as follows:

Acquackanoc, October 13, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received your letter of the 12th and am obliged to you for the Intelligence it contains.

It is true that two Regiments of British troops have moved from the New Bridge towards New York. But the rest were all in their former Stations yesterday evening. The militia here are so very few, that I cannot think of moving<sup>d</sup> your two Regt's down to Elizabeth Town til the Enemy quit Bergen County, or do attempt to invade Essex or Middlesex Counties. In which last Case you will give them the most Speedy Annoyance in your power. I am,

Your Most Humble Servant,

STIRLING.

Colonel Dayton evidently had received the latest information concerning the movements of the enemy, because Stirling adds the following postscript:

12 o'clock. I have, now, reason to believe the Enemy are moving off. If it be confirmed, I shall send your orders to march for Elizabeth town early tomorrow morning. Unless you receive orders to the contrary, you are to march the two Regiments with you to Elizabeth town. I have desired Dr. Caldwell to provide Quarters, but not to interfere with the first and second, who will follow.

STIRLING.

It will be recalled that the family name of Stirling was William Alexander, of Scotland. He adopted the title, after coming to this country, of Earl of Stirling, and spent a large fortune in prosecuting his claim





to the earldom of Stirling, but did not succeed. Previous to the Revolution he had been interested in the iron mines at Stirling, near Tuxedo, Stirlington, a station on the Erie railway near Ramapo, is named after him.

Washington in a letter to Gouverneur Morris, dated October 4, 1778, speaking of the ability of America to carry on the war much longer, says:

Certainly not, unless some measures can be devised and speedily executed, to restore the credit of our currency, restrain extortion and punish forestallers (meaning profiteers). A rat in the shape of a horse, is not to be bought at this time for less than £200, nor a saddle under thirty or forty, boots twenty and shoes and other articles, in like proportions. . . . Flour is selling at different places from £5 to £15 a hundred weight, hay from £10 to £30 per ton, beef and other essentials, in proportion.

On November 30, 1778, the American army, led by Washington, arrived at this place (then known as Acquackanonk Bridge) where they had spent the night of the 21st two years before. Washington probably occupied the room of Lord Stirling, in the Blanchard tavern, which stood on the site of the present No. 130 River drive.

Stirling was not there that day or night. Washington's army was encamped in the (then) little graveyard and upon the hay fields, which subsequently became additions thereto, in the rear of the tavern. Just how many soldiers there were here that night is hard to tell, but there must have been 3,000 not including Lee's corps of cavalry, which, three days previous, had been assigned to cover this locality. And yet this number did not create any excitement to the inhabitants, who were conscious of the fact that in 1777 there had been, at one time 20,957 British soldiers in this country, of whom more than two-thirds or 14,159, were in New Jersey.

The next day Washington and his army proceeded on their march to Middlebrook, for Winter camp, from which Washington returned to Paramus, passing through here in going (December 6) and returning a few days later, stopping every trip at the Blanchard tavern, which was destroyed by fire in 1877.

On October 19, 1901, there was dedicated and presented to the city by the pupils of her public schools, with funds raised by them at the suggestion of Mr. Marinus H. Small, principal of the High School, a tablet, which had been placed in the stone wall, on the westerly side of Main avenue, and a monument erected at the corner of Ayerigg avenue and Erie street. The tablet was inscribed: "The Blanchard House, Where General George Washington Had His Headquarters, Stood about 100 feet west of this spot, and almost opposite was the Entrance to the old bridge."

The monument consisting of a granite base, surmounted by square block, in all about six feet high, was inscribed: On its easterly side: "Erected May 30, 1901, by pupils of the Passaic Public Schools. With



the generous assistance of their friends." On its westerly side: "A Tribute of Honor to George Washington and His Army." On its northerly side: "Washington, Unique in Character, Blameless in Private Life and Public Office. Champion of Liberty. Friend of Man. Alone in Greatness Honored by the World." On its southerly side: "On the day of the Erection of this Memorial a bronze Tablet was set in the wall on Lower Main Avenue to mark the site of Washington's Headquarters while he was in Passaic."

Although so stated on the monument as having been erected (dedicated) May 30, (which was the date originally set), delay in completing compelled postponement until October 19th. The memorials cost \$900. The site had been donated to the city by the heirs of Dr. John and Mrs. Jane Aycrigg, by deed dated September 17, 1900. Since the dedication lower Main avenue was changed to River drive, and Erie street to Main avenue.

It is very unusual that a permanent memorial is erected to mark defeat. But in this instance, while that which occurred at the time looked very much like defeat, and in fact was believed to be such by a majority of the people, civilian and militia, it was the forerunner of a smashing victory for those now judged defeated, in the course of the next six weeks, although no one could see or even expect it, for many months, if at all. But how often is not this the experience of our lives? There are times when the best of effort seems to fail in accomplishing the object intended, and no further attempt is made in that direction because of discouragement, and failure results; whereas, if further effort had been put forth, the end sought might have been secured.

In this instance, had Washington permitted himself to believe, or even think, that he was defeated, and had surrendered, the war would have been lost, and the American colonies, in all probability, remained under the control of England. Yet, he did not waiver in his course but, in this, the blackest night of all the war, he determined to persevere in the face of all obstacles. How well he succeeded, America itself can testify.

By reference to the history of Garfield in this work, it will be learned that the British army did not follow upon the heels of the Americans, but delayed pursuit several days, to feast on the larders of the Bergen county farmers. This was why Washington felt safe in taking quarters for the night in the old tavern, while his men lay scattered over the church yard, confident they would not be attacked.

On November 26, 1776, the British Army crossed from the present Garfield to the present Clifton, at a point about one thousand feet south of Dundee dam (which was not in existence then), from which point a road led along the river (then a narrow, shallow stream) to the Weasel road, near the present corner of that road and Randolph avenue. Here





they found everything in abundance, as the farmers here were prosperous and wealthy.

The British army was composed of 1st and 2d Battalions of Light Infantry, two battalions of the Guards, two companies of Chasseurs, two battalions of Grenadiers, the 33d and 42d Regiments, Battalion of the 72d Highlanders, one detachment of Light Dragoons, at least two other brigades, two battalions of Hessian Grenadiers, and the Hessian Jagers. These latter, German slaves, were commanded by Colonel Donop. This military array, one would suppose, would have been enough to spread terror among the peaceful farm folk, and subjugate, if not extinguish, all hope of being able to detach themselves from the government of England, and yet, as if there were not enough, two days later there appeared: Rahl's (formerly Stir's) brigade, consisting of the Knyphausen, Rahl and Lossberg Regiments.

The Hessians led the march as well as protected the rear, often being shot at by some irate farmer, as the army passed along. The route taken was down the Weasel road (now Dundee drive and Lexington avenue, Prospect street to Passaic avenue, thence to Tony's Nose. But they did not proceed in orderly array. They strolled along, and very often stopping by the wayside, where those not engaged in robbing the houses, barns and fields of farmers, waited for those who were not thus engaged. This took time, and accounts for the short daily marches.

On November 29th, Rahl's brigade, under General Howe, encamped for the night in the present City Hall Park, which ever since has been known as "Tony's Nose," as a compliment to Anthony Howe. The next day they followed the route of Washington to Newark and beyond. While on this march, depredations and robberies were not confined to farms along the old road, but those two or three miles away likewise suffered. In order to cripple the farmers, their property (such as was too bulky to be carried away), lumber, fences, buildings, fruits and grain, were destroyed; and their horses, cattle, pigs and fowl were taken. Horses were not killed.

The British army, in pursuit of the Americans under Washington, looted every farm, house and barn in this vicinity. In the history of Clifton will be found a list of the farms visited and property taken, included in the present limits of that city. The line of march of the British was from the present Dundee lake, over the old Weasel road (or Dundee drive), to and through Passaic.

The first place visited was that of the mill of Adrian A. Post and Thomas, his son, who operated a grist mill on the line of the present Highland avenue, between Hope and Van Winkle avenues. Post owned all land bounded by the old road on the west, Parker avenue on the east, Sherman street on the south, to above Lake street on the north. His farm house was corner Hope avenue and President street. The





enemy took from them: \* 1 black Mare 9 years old, 1 brown Mare 5 years, 1 brown Gelding 7 years, 2 Ton English hay, 10 bushels of Indian Corn, 300 wt. of wheat flower, 700 wt. of Rye flower, 25 Bags, 150 wt. of Pork, Set of Waggon geers partly worn.

Although Cornelius Aeltse resided near the corner of Burgess place and the old road, and Robert Ludlow near Autumn street, at that time neither was disturbed, presumably because they were not inimical to the King.

Without stopping elsewhere, the looters went direct from Posts' mill to the residence of Adrian J. Post, corner Jackson street. He was a carpenter by trade, at the same time cultivating the land between the old Weasel road and the present Erie railroad, between Jackson and Sherman streets. From him there were taken: 2 calves, 8 months old; 16 bushels of Rye; 250 Chestnut Rails; 50 Posts 5 hole; 1 Handsaw, 1 Pannel saw; 1 Band Saw, Sash saw, Compass; 2 Pair of Match Inch Ploughs; 1 Large Gouge, Smoothing plain; 6 Chissels; 1 Morning Gown; 1 Calimanco Gown; 1 Coverlet, Pair of pillow cases; 2 Silken handkerchiefs, partly worn; 2 Pair of Stockings; 1 Iron Pot containing 3 Gall'n; 1 Holland fiddle; 1 New Pair of Worsted stockings; 1 pair Worsted stockings partly worn; 1 Pail, 3 knives & forks.

Although John Speer resided nearly opposite, he was unmolested. Marinus Van Riper, at the northeast corner of Monroe street, was the next man to sacrifice valuable property to the enemy in the shape of 1 wagon, partly worn; 28 bushels of oats; 125 Oak rails.

Van Riper cultivated an extensive farm between the present Monroe and Jackson streets, neither of which were then in existence. He possessed considerable means. His house, a large Dutch stone, stood near the corner, back of which were his slaves' quarters, smoke house and big barns. He was a member of the Reformed church, trustee of the district school, one of the leaders in the fight for independence, serving on various committees, and took an active part in all public affairs, in many of which he took a leading part.

Up to this point, in anticipation of spending only one night here in camp, they had taken and carried along only two hundred posts and rails for their camp fires. When their stay was prolonged, it is interesting to note the thousands that were taken and burned during their stay here.

Lucas Wessels, who resided then at the southeast corner opposite Van Riper, and a little later on the site of the present Erie main station, was the next victim. Wessels was a tanner, having his tannery on a little brook at the apex of the present Central avenue and Lexington avenue. The writer has seen a sheet of parchment bearing his water mark. He was also a surveyor, a good draughtsman, and a splendid

\* In this and following lists, the ortography and forms of the original reports are presented.



penman, acting as accountant for several business houses here, besides serving as clerk of the old Reformed church. He lost to the looters: 100 cwt. of flax, 7 tons of English hay, 100 Chestnut rails, 20 five hole Posts, 1 Horse 4 years old, 1 Mare.

Opposite the Erie station and on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building, stood an old Dutch stone house, which had been erected by Captain John Vreeland, but in 1776 owned by Benjamin Helme, a practicing lawyer here, Newark and in New York. To escape the British, he removed his family and furniture to the store house of John Burrows, at Middletown Point. Mr. Helme became insane, and while in that condition the enemy set fire to the storehouse, destroying its contents, including the property of Lawyer Helme, which he valued at £1000, not a penny of which did he ever recover.

From Wessels' house the British passed the house of Cornelius Van Houten, where the post office is, without molesting the house or barn, and scarcely looked at the premises of John H. Van Winkle, further along, as they quickened their step to reach their camp before darkness overtook them. Their many incursions (regarding all of which the records are incomplete), had taken the time of a short day, and the early sunset of this 26th day of November reminded them of supper and bed. Reaching the point where Passaic avenue enters Prospect street, they left that old street and went across fields wherein Harmonius Van Wagoner had raised and harvested potatoes, stretching from Grove terrace to Gregory avenue. A week previous there had been several days of heavy rain, followed by intensely cold weather, which continued. As a result, the potatoe field was a succession of little hills and hollows difficult to negotiate, particularly with the cavalry equipment, the rumbling and grunching of whose wheels over the frozen bumps, and the clinking of their trace chains created a most unusual sound for the ears of a community whose loudest sound was their church bell.

After crossing Gregory avenue, along which ran a post and rail fence, the troopers came to a hay field, which had had two mowings that year, but still left sufficient stubbins for horses, up the side of which they trudged until they reached the summit on the spot where today stands "Passaic's" city hall, and here that part of the British army under Lord Anthony Howe, numbering perhaps 3,000, encamped, and where they remained for at least two and perhaps three days, employing their time in looting farms near and far. They began that very night, when a party of eight visited the residence of John Jacob Vreeland, whose house (then the first one erected in the county), stood at the corner of the present First and South streets, from which they took: 1 Mare 4 years old, 1 Mare 6 years old, 3 Horses 7 years old, 1 Horse 6 years old, 2 Saddles and 2 Bridles, 2 Working Stears, 1 Waggon, 31 Sheep, 1 Bed bolster, Pillows, 2 Rugs, blanket & Coverlet & 2 Sheets; 2 Set of Gears, 2 Pair Stockings, 3 Swords, Bullet Mould, 5 Calves,





1 Negro Man, 20 Ells tow Cloth, Tub & Milk Vessels, 2 Aprons & Short Gown, 5 Caps & handkerchiefs.

Being encouraged by their haul of the 26th, they returned on the 28th, and carried away: 6 Tons English hay, 600 Sheaves of Oats, 500 Sheaves Wheat, 9 Hives of honey, 9 Shirts, 5 Barrels Cyder, 30 Bushels Turnips, 3 Bushels Potatoes, 13 Gallons Metheglin, 100 Cabbage heads, 50 Barn fowls and 7 Geese, Cash, 3 Shirts and 2 Pair Stockings, 3 Handkerchiefs, 1 Gun.

The next day they visited Van Wagoner and helped themselves to: 125 Bushels Wheat, 125 Bushels Rye, 5 Tons Fresh hay, 1 Cow, 5 Horses, Young; 6 Swine, Year old; 4318 Chestnut Rails, 900 Posts.

Van Wagoner lived in the house still standing at the corner of Gregory avenue and River drive. From Van Wagoner's they went to the house of Marcellus Post, now No. 230 River drive, and carried away: 2800 Chestnut Rails, 1 New Waggon & Geers, 4 Tons of English hay, 5 cwt. of Rye Meal, 5 Head of Cattle, 2 Yearlings, 20 Bushels of Indian Corn, 1 Broad Axe, 1 Mare & Colt, 18 Sheep, 700 White Oak posts.

In less than half an hour, they were swarming over the premises of Francis Van Winkle, who lived at the present No. 306 River drive, from which they carried away: 3250 Chestnut Rails, 730 Chestnut & White Oak Posts, 1 Negro Man, 1 Horse, 1 Horse, 1 Set of New Geers with Iron traces, 16 Sheep, 8 Tons English hay, Wheat, barley, Oats, about 100 Bushel; 6 Bags with about 6 cwt. of flower; 5 Milk Vessels & Churn (burnt); Pots, kettles, knives, forks, dishes, &c.; Feather bed &c.; 2 Bed blankets, 2 sheets, 2 Green Rugs, 2 Woollen Sheets, 1 Clock, 1 Load of flax.

They were now in the centre of old Acquackanonk, and it was only a step to the residence of Daniel Neil, at the present north corner of Westervelt place, from which they abstracted: 2½ tons of English hay, ½ load of flax, 1 horse, besides tearing down and carting away a fence that stretched from the River drive to the present High street. Daniel Neil was a colonel in the American army, then in active service, who less than five weeks later was killed in the battle of Princeton.

Passing on, the next place to be visited was that of Christopher Van Nostrand, now No. 398 River drive, from which they took: 1 Boat almost New, 2 Negro Men, 2 Negro Women, 4 Horses & Mares, 2 Saddles, 15 Barrels Cyder, 1 Pair leather breeches, Cloth Coat, 1 Waist Coat, 2 Yds Streaked Holland, Pocket Book with sundry Accompts, 2 Water Pots for bleaching, 2 Bellow's, 2 Cases with Sundry flasks, 2 Small trunks, 2 Teakettles, 3 Pans, Pewter, 50 Bushels Corn, 40 Bushels Apples, 1 Sheep, 2 Hogs, Potatoes, Turnips, Cabbage, Tobacco.

From here it was but a step to the house of John Sip, Sr., now No. 458 River drive, where they found: 2900 Rails, 360 Posts, 4 Horses, 2 Cows, 3 Sheep, 9 Hogs, 12 Loads Hay, 2 Guns, 2 Hives of bees, 30



bushels of Rye, 30 Bushels of Indian Corn, 1 Negro Man, 1 Negro boy, 3 Negro women.

The next place visited was that of Richard Ludlow, at the southwest corner of River drive and Van Houten avenue. The house is today as it was then. Here they obtained: 20,000 Staves and Heading, 10 Cords of Walnut Wood (piled on the dock awaiting shipment to New York), 1 Boat with Sails, 1 Large Copper Kettle, 1 Middle Size Kettle, 1 Small Kettle, 1 Brass Pie Pan, 1 Iron Pie Pan, 1 Brass Tea Kettle, Wassing of Linnen.

From the adjoining premises of Garret Van Riper, now No. 502 River drive, which still remains, there were taken two horses and one Negro man. The horses were needed to draw the accumulated plunder, and the man to drive. Richard Van Riper lived in a house which stood upon the site of the one now No. 618 River drive; from here they carried away: New Iron Bound Waggon, 2 Oxen 6 years old, 24 Sheep, 4 Tons English hay, 3 Milk Cows, 1 Steer 3 years old, 3 Steers & One Heifer 2 years old, 2 Swine 170 wt. each, 2 Swine 50 wt. each, 1 Mare 5 Years old, 1 Horse 7 years old, Saddle & Bridle, 1 Negro Man 30 years old. In the following January a raiding party took from him: 1 Bay Horse 11 years old, 1 Brown horse 8 years old.

From here it was but a step to the house of Derick Vreeland, which stood on the site of the present one, No. 666 River Drive, which they left with: 2 Fat Oxen, 2 Fat Cows, 6 Calves, 2 Mares, 34 Sheep, 1 Bull 5 years old, 7 Hogs.

For some unknown reason the premises of Halmagh Sip, now No. 704 River Drive, were not invaded at this time. He was wealthy and a loyal American. In the following October, however, a raiding party took from him 5 horses, 1 wagon, 1 calf, 30 sheep, 1 pair of silver shoe buckles, and shoes, besides burning great quantities of barley and wheat.

Upon this occasion, however, the Red Coats went from Vreeland's across the road to John Wanshair's house and barns opposite. The house stood where now stands the house No. 717 River drive, where they made the richest haul of all, depriving that hard working farmer, who cultivated more acres than any other farmer, of the following: 1 Horse 4 years, old quarter English, 1 Horse, 5 years old with foal, 1 Stallion 4 years old, 1 Mare 3 years old, 4 Working horses between 14 & 15 hands high & between 5 & 6 years old, 12 Sheep, 2 Calves, 1 Long Scarlet Cloak, 2 Short Scarlet Cloaks, 1 New Cloth Surtout, 3 Black Velvet Waistcoats, 1 Pair Velvet breeches, 17 Shirts of fine linen, 2 Chintz Gowns, 2 Black Aprons, 4 Lawn Aprons, 4 Lawn Handkerchiefs, 6 Cambric Caps, 6 New Sheets & 6 Pillow Cases, 2 Cotton Petticoats, 1 Woollen Petticoat, 1 Pin Cushion with Silver Chain & band, 10 Pair of Stockings, 1 Pair Silver buckles, Coverlet.

This was the last place looted in the present city of Passaic on this date. Almost all of the plunder was carted to the camp, where it was





used, and where the thousands of fence rails and posts were burned on scores of camp fires, which at night, for nearly a week, lighted the old village up, as never before or since while the troops revelled in feasting. The next day raiding parties went through the city of Clifton, an account of which will be found under that history.

The British evidently were not looking for trouble, as they never set foot upon the village street, where a company of Americans guarded the bridge. They avoided it, and during their stay on *Tony's Nose* (as City Hall hill was afterwards known), never fired a shot, or engaged in a skirmish.

Washington, foreseeing these raids, had warned the farmers to take everything several miles into the country for safety. But he was not heeded, to their everlasting regret.

In proof of the fact that Washington took his own time in retreating, it will be noticed that it took him nineteen days to travel ninety miles, less than five miles in twenty-four hours. "Scarcely a man joined his army in this march, while numbers were daily flocking to the royal army, to accept of the proffered mercy and protection."

A distinguished writer in a pamphlet published in 1779, says: "It was the custom of General Howe to give the enemy five days march, after their defeat; as for instance, the battle of Brandywine," (and eight others which he mentioned). "In Washington's retreat from Hackensack the customary five days were allowed him to escape. Lord Cornwallis might, just as well as not, have followed Washington in close pursuit, captured him and so put an end to the war. But he was merciful," &c. From Syphers "History of New Jersey," p. 127. "With the brigades commanded by Beal, Heard and Erwin, Washington crossed the bridge at Acquackanonk and took post at Newark. Tories then began to organize."

It was just at this time that Robert Drummond, the leading merchant at Acquackanonk, who had a store at the entrance to the bridge, sold out his business, turned Tory, organized a company of over two hundred men, mostly from Bergen county, and enlisted them in the service of the King.

Speaking of Washington's retreat, "Lippincott's History," page 163, says: "Depressed by a succession of disasters, the little army of Americans moved wearily on, illy clad, without tents, and scarcely a blanket (and no shoes) to protect them from the rigor of the season."

"O! It was pitiful  
Near a whole city full  
Friends they had none."

To add to the embarrassment of conducting the war and of living and conducting business, was the great depreciation of the value of money, the emission of which had been so prodigal as to become almost worthless. The amount issued between 1775 and 1780 was more than





\$241,500,000, causing such depreciation as to make \$100 in specie worth \$7,500 Continental paper money; \$100 of it was given for a yard of silk, and \$300 for one of silver. From \$2,000 to \$5,000 was given for a ticket to a military ball. With such money it was necessary to carry on the war and live.

1776. After Washington and his army had left Acquackanonk, November 22, the river bridge, which had been destroyed to prevent the British from following, was repaired, but no measures taken to protect or guard it. The British took advantage of this and stationed there a force of from 250 to 400 men, with two pieces of cannon, in December, which remained until the following spring and then left, when the place was left without a soldier. When Washington became aware of this, he ordered General Heard to move part of his militia here from Pompton. Heard did so on May 25, 1777, where he remained one month and was then ordered to return with 500 of his men to Pompton, leaving part of his forces here. On July 30, 1777, American forces numbering 4,500 passed through Acquackanonk, on their way to the South.

In September, 1777, this place and vicinity were visited by British raiding parties under General Clinton, two of which commanded respectively by Brigadier General John Campbell, and Sir Henry Clinton in person. The former had the 7th, 26th and 52d Regiments, the Ansbach and Waldeck (Hessian) Grenadiers, and 300 of the Provincials (New Jersey Loyalists). Sir Henry had Bayard's corps, 250 recruits of the 71st Regiment, some convalescents, and a battalion, 250 strong, of New Jersey Volunteers (Loyalists). Robert Drummond, now a British captain, led the way from Bellville along River road to this place and beyond. He was selected because of his knowledge of the country, places and people. He will be remembered as the merchant prince of this place, who before actual hostilities began had been a supporter of the claims of the Americans for independence, but when war began, he deserted his friends and allied himself with the party called Loyalists. At Bellville, the detachment was joined by Captain Sutherland and 250 men. Sir Henry Clinton is said to have had several objects in view when planning this invasion, among them that of impressing upon the inhabitants the power of the British army, and thereby encourage sympathy and respect therefor; to entrap unwary American soldiers, and to capture and take away every horse, cattle and swine that could be found.

In this entire detachment there were about 6,000 men besides many horses, wagons and cannon, which must have presented a most imposing array to the peaceful country folk as it passed along, and without doubt struck terror into many hearts when they realized the strength of the King's army. Because of the absence of young men, who were in the army, and only the women and older men at home, the invaders met with little opposition. But at two points their way was opposed. One



was at the present town of Nutley and the other in the present city of Passaic, where there was a sharp skirmish along the River drive between Paulison and Aycrigg avenues, which took place Sunday noon, September 14, and was caused by John Wanshair, who objected to having the British take all of his horses, mares, stallions, oxen, cows, calves, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. Wanshair was assisted by his neighbors. But as they were outnumbered 1,000 to 1, resistance was powerless, and the British took with them: 1 horse, 4 years old quarter English; 1 mare, 4 years old; 1 mare, 5 years old, with foal; 1 stallion, 4 years old; 1 mare, 3 years old, very likely; 4 work horses, from 14 to 15 hands high and between 5 and 6 years old; 12 sheep, 2 calves, 2 milk cows; 1 yoke of oxen, six years old; 18 young cattle, 15 sheep; besides clothing, underwear, personal adornments and silverware.

From this place they proceeded to the bridge, over which part of the army crossed, after a struggle with the bridge guard, and continued through the present Wallington and Garfield to what was then known as Tuer's but now Outwater lane, where they rested. That portion of the detachment left at the bridge proceeded northward over River drive, Prospect street and Lexington avenue, then Wesel road, to the river near the corner of the present Parker avenue, from which point along the river, then a narrow stream, a path-like road ran to the present Dundee dam and beyond where there was a ford. Every house between the old bridge and this ford received a visit from the raiders, who in addition to other things, took away every horse, cow and other animal they could find, which they drove before them to, and over the ford, which crossed the river near the foot of Outwater lane, above spoken of, which was the rendezvous of not only the troops of Clinton and Campbell, but also those of Major General Vaughn, comprising Captain Emmerich's chasseurs, five companies of Grenadiers and light infantry, the 57th, 63rd and Prince Charles Regiments, and five pieces of light artillery. While Clinton and Campbell had, after leaving New York by vessels, ascended the Hackensack river to about where the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad crosses the same, and from there proceeded overland to the Passaic river which he crossed, to meet Campbell, who had taken the route by boat to Elizabethtown Point, whence he started northward to intercept Clinton at Bellville. General Vaughn had proceeded up the Hudson river by vessels to Fort Lee, and from there proceeded toward Garfield, robbing as he went. Here, where now are the Hird mills, all assembled according to appointment, Monday, September 15th, and lay there until every farm in the neighborhood was looted and robbed, when they started on their return to New York, carrying with them hundreds of horses, cattle and sheep, after a loss of eight men killed, eighteen wounded, five taken prisoners





and ten missing. Two were killed in the skirmish on River drive in the barn on premises now known as No. 306.

1778. General Clinton's raid was a great surprise to everybody, including Washington and his assistants, who realized that there was no signal system, whereby the people might be warned of the approach of the enemy. To remedy this, signal stations were established upon the mountain. The one for this section was at the Notch. In times of danger a gong or bell was sounded in daytime and a bonfire shone at night.

After leaving Valley Forge, June 18, 1778, Washington, at the head of his army, started for the Hudson river and Newburg, passing through Acquackanonk on July 9th, where Washington established headquarters in the old tavern, where he had spent the night of November 21, 1776. In September, 1778, the British began another foraging expedition, and sent vessels here to carry the loot away. But General William Winds, with 1,000 men, got busy and quickly drove them out of the State.

The signal stations proving ineffective, Lord Stirling established guard headquarters at the same old tavern, and placed groups of his men along the Passaic drive and Lexington avenue, to protect the farmers. These several groups erected huts in which the men slept and constructed stoves and bake ovens alongside for cooking and baking, the remains of which may still be found, lying as they were left by the soldiers, now, so long ago.

The presence of these guards put an end to the raids of the enemy. These huts acted as magnets upon the boys of the neighborhood, who visited the soldiers every night and Sundays, carrying with them cooked food, clay pipes, tobacco and matches, in return for a good soldier song or story.

By an order headed: Acquackanonk, New Jersey, October 11, 1778, under the direction of "Major General Lord Stirling, commanding the army in New Jersey," and signed by "W. Barber, A. D. Camp," it was provided that no flag from the enemy should be received at any post or place except at Elizabethtown Point, without permission of the Governor or commanding officer.

Two days later Lord Stirling, in an order dated "Aquakanoc," directed Colonel Elias Dayton to move with two regiments from Second River to Elizabethtown to which place he removed his own headquarters October 15. He felt safe in doing this as the British raids (the last one having been attempted October 3), had been frustrated.

General Woodford's brigade passed through Acquackanonk on October 16th and again on the 29th. Washington at the head of his army, visited here again December 2nd and 3rd, on their way to winter quarters at Middlebrook. He was here again on the 5th, when going



from Elizabeth to Paramus, returning over the same route on the 8th. The Pennsylvania Line encamped here from December 9th to 12th.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT AND REMINISCENCES AND TRADITIONS OF  
OLD ACQUACKANONK AND VICINITY IN THE REVOLUTION

Old David Gordon, one of the soldiers in Washington's retreat, often spoke of the march, and dwelled at length of the forlorn and hopeless aspect of the fugitives, and the vivacious and hopeful aspect of the enemy in pursuit. The season was wet and the roads almost impassable. The old soldiers were wont to call this dreary march the "mud-rounds," and all of them often referred to this march as attended with very peculiar hardships. Mr. Gordon often spoke of the "mud-rounds" with a shudder, although he was better off than many of his fellows, for he had shoes. The weather was in keeping with the occasion and yet, all who saw him, declare that Washington appeared entirely calm and confident, as if he were a conqueror at the head of an enthusiastic army.

Washington, in 1782, had his headquarters in the Schuyler house at Pompton. Schuyler was of the family, one of whom married into the Van Wagoner family of Acquackanonk.

After the battle of White Plains, the noted Brigadier General Philip Van Cortlandt, with his servant and his friend Mr. Seabring, passed through Acquackanonk, "and were near being captured by the enemy," he says, before getting across the State.

Among the famous troops of the war, Arnold's Light Horse, an independent organization of Morris county, was here at Acquackanonk soon after Washington had crossed the bridge. One of its membres, in his diary, says: "Blowers, and a part, at least, of the troop served at Elizabethtown, often at Newark and Acquackanonk."

The troop was divided into parties of twos, fours, eights and tens, and served a videttes to watch the movements of the enemy, and as express carriers. Some of them came near being taken prisoners by the British, who intended confining them in their fort on the Polifly road, near the corner of Passaic avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

In the summer of 1776, the blast furnaces at Hibernia, Morris county, had been prepared and put in order for making three-pounder cannon, with two balls. Under date of November 14, 1776, Mr. Huff, the superintendent in charge, wrote to Colonel Knox, chief of artillery, that he had cast over thirty-five tons of shot, but that "it is altogether out of my power to get it carted." It did seem almost impossible to get teams to cart the cannon and shot, to the seat of war. Finally, however, arrangements were made with George Van Iderstine and Cornelius Ludlow, of Acquackanonk Bridge, to cart the shot to Acquackanonk Landing, where the same was put on boats and delivered at different points.





As Acquackanonk was situate on the main highway from Newark to Hackensack, Totowa, Paramus, and other noted places, it was visited by many troops of both sides, on the march to those places. The bridge was probably the greatest inducement for them to come here, as this was the only bridge on the river excepting Totowa bridge. Washington passed through here a number of times in company of his wife.

After the battle of Monmouth, in 1778, the British, in their retreat, came to Acquackanonk, where they were overtaken just north of the present Erie railroad bridge, and where in the night of June 30, 1778, the Americans attacked them, when a lively skirmish ensued. In the darkness, however, the British succeeded in making their escape, crossed the bridge, and were soon lost in darkness on the Bergen shore.

Realizing the importance of the bridge, Washington considered it a good plan to establish headquarters here in command of an officer, who should have a guard stationed at the bridge. There was another reason for having a guard stationed here, and that was to prevent raids of cattle and grain by the British, which had become so frequent that measures were taken to stop them. As winter approached, the enemy was desirous of laying in a good supply of food, grain, &c. Washington himself saw this, and knew that if they did he would suffer. As it was, grain and provisions, clothing, boots and shoes were scarce and very dear. In a letter of October 4, 1778, Washington says: "A rat, in the shape of a horse, is not to be bought at this time for less than £200; nor a saddle under 30 or 40; boots 20, and shoes and other articles in proportion."

On the 15th of October, 1778, Stirling quit his headquarters here and went to Elizabethtown to take command of the troops there, where he remained until the army went into winter quarters. In 1779 he was stationed at Pompton, from which point he covered all the country as far as Hackensack.

The guard was still kept at the bridge here. In December, 1778, General Putnam's division of the Continental army marched from Paramus to Acquackanonk. Surgeon Thacher, who was attached to the division, and marched with it keeping a diary of all events coming under his observation from 1775 to 1783, speaks of this occasion as follows:

1778. Dec. 1 and 2. Passed through Paramus and Acquackanonk—26 miles. These towns are inhabited chiefly by Dutch people; their churches and dwelling houses are built mostly of rough stone, one story high. There is a peculiar neatness in appearance of their dwellings, having an airy piazza supported by pillars in front and their kitchens connected at the ends in form of wings. The land is remarkably level and the soil fertile, and being generally cultivated the people appear to enjoy ease and happy competency. The furniture in their homes is of the most ordinary kind, and such as might be supposed to accord with the fashion of the days of Queen Anne. They despise the superfluities of life, and are ambitious to appear always neat and cleanly and never to complain of empty purse.





Thatcher was at that time a surgeon in the First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson, which again visited Acquackanonk Bridge August 22, 1781, whence it marched to Virginia with the main army, to give battle to Cornwallis there.

The following is copied from Vol. XI, Second Series Pennsylvania Archives, and refers to the troops of that State under Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, who on December 5, 1778, left Paramus and arrived here five days afterwards.

Acquackanonk Bridge, December 10, A. D., 1778.

Parole——

Countersign——

Detale for Guard——

C. S. S. C. P.

Adjutant of the day from the 10th regiment.

Division order Dec. 11, 1778.

Parole——

Countersign——

Detale for Guard——

C. S. S. C. P.

1st regiment, O. O. 1. 1. 10.

On the 30th of November, 1779, General Greene, the quartermaster-general, wrote from Morristown to one of the quartermasters of New Jersey that "we are yet like the wandering Jews, in search of a Jerusalem, not having fixt upon a position for hutting the army," and he says that he has described two favorable positions to the commander-in-chief," the one at Equacanock," the other four miles from Morristown.

Previous to that date, Washington wrote to the President of Congress that he had ordered three regiments to halt at Morristown "to inspirit the inhabitants." He no doubt thought the same "inspiring" would do good at Acquackanonk also.

In October, 1780, Lord Stirling, who had been at Paramus a short time, returned to Totowa, where the main army under Washington was encamped. Colonel Mayland's cavalry was stationed near Little Falls, while Major Parr's rifle corps occupied a ravine near the Great Notch. The duty of the two was to watch and among other things guard the Notch road, the part of which within the present city's limits is known as Van Houten avenue. This road, as far as the river and up to the bridge, was patrolled day and night by these troops, who on the 23rd were re-inforced by the light infantry. Major Parr erected a tower and beacon on the hill at the Notch for a look-out station, from which Acquackanonk could be plainly seen.

The First Pennsylvania passed through Acquackanonk July 21, 1780, on their way to a point on the Hudson opposite Spuyten Divel creek.

On October 10, 1780, Captains Bonde, Parr and McKinney, of the



American army, who were in camp at Totowa, now Paterson, came as far as Acquackanonk on an exploring expedition, returning in the evening. "During the year of 1780, detachments from the First Pennsylvania were sent from Totowa through Acquackanonk to Newark, Jersey City, and in one instance to Staten Island."

In November, 1780, Washington's army camped at Pompton, where in January, 1781, the troops mutinied, two of whom were punished with death.

In the summer of 1780, the Second New Jersey regiment, "Continental Line," had skirmishes with the British, at this place, where it was quartered part of that summer.

During the first three weeks of July, 1780, Washington had his headquarters in the Dey house at Preakness. One hundred years afterwards the owner traded it for the house now known as 56 Howe avenue, this city. The main army was at Totowa, near the Great Falls.

In the evening of November 21, 1780, four years after the famous crossing, the guard at the bridge, which had been relieved by another guard, while on their way to join the main army at Totowa, were surprised by the approach of a reconnoitering party of the enemy from Bergen county, who had crossed the river at the fording place at the present Dundee dam, just as the British had done four years before, and with which this party were undoubtedly familiar. It seems our guard had only passed by a few minutes before. Learning this, the British gave chase, overtaking the guard as they were crossing the river at now Paterson. The bridge being guarded, the British attempted to wade the shallow river but were routed and driven back, hastily running away and disappearing in the darkness.

It is probable that a part at least of the Second New York Regiment passed through here, in December, 1780, who on their return from Fredericksburg, Virginia, encamped at Pompton for the winter of 1781-82, which was a severe one for the soldiers, who suffered very much from the cold, and caused them to wish for the expiration of their terms of service. One Sunday their chaplain, Dr. John Gano, in the introduction to his sermon, tried to encourage the soldiers to "stick it out," saying, "I can aver of a truth that our Lord and Saviour approved of all those who had engaged in his service for the whole warfare. No six or nine months men in his service." This had an encouraging effect upon the soldiers.

On June 26, 1781, Martha Washington is said to have passed through Acquackanonk, escorted by a guard of honor from General Heath's division, on her way to Mount Vernon.

On July 4, 1781, the Connecticut State troops, 400 strong, under General Waterbury, crossed Acquackanonk Bridge, on their way to Little Falls, by way of Notch road.

For some time previous to August 14, 1781, it was Washington's





intention to attack Clinton in New York. On that day, however, he changed his mind and determined to remove the French troops under Lafayette, and a detachment of the American forces under several commanders from King's Ferry on the Hudson to Virginia to capture Cornwallis.

On Saturday afternoon, August 25, 1781, General Lincoln with the Light Infantry and the First New York Regiment, passed through Acquackanonk on their way to Virginia.

In August, 1781, the French division of the American army, under Rochambeau, marched from King's Ferry to Philadelphia, by way of Suffern and Pompton. Washington joined the advance of the right column at Suffern. He had his eye on Sir Henry Clinton, who was at New York, and from Suffern, Washington and his corps left the latter place on August 27 and passed through Acquackaronk for Paulus Hook, taking a roundabout way to throw the British off their guard.

In the early summer of 1782 Washington and his wife visited the troops at Pompton from Saturday evening to Monday morning, stopping at the Schuyler house.

Tradition says that Washington, on one occasion, while passing down the Weasel road, stopped at the house of Henry Garrison, whose daughter he held on his knee. Washington promised to send her a "fine doll, with big black eyes, just like her own." Strange to say, Washington forgot to send the doll.

Washington inaugurated the secret service soon after the crossing of Acquackanonk bridge. In fact, he employed much of his time the night of that day in his room in the old tap house on the hill, in arranging for the employment of certain good men as spies—men who were acquainted with every foot of the soil for miles around. Jacob A. Van Riper, a young man twenty-four years of age, was selected by Washington as a spy, upon the recommendation of Derick Vreeland. To save himself from surprises, in addition to spies, Washington had light troops, reconnoissances, examination of prisoners, "hypotheses" and beacon light signals.

In a letter dated August 25, 1778, he wrote to an officer that he was "anxious to obtain a true account of what is passing in New York, and am endeavoring to send in a variety of persons from different quarters who have no connection or communication with each other. By comparing their accounts, I shall be able to form a pretty good judgment." These spies were men of more than ordinary intelligence, and because it was not safe to give them written instructions, they were supposed to possess a quick, retentive memory. Should the spy be unable to make business an effective excuse for his appearance among the enemy, he was to carry a small bundle of provisions by way of pretext. It will be noticed below that Richard Van Riper "got off" on the "business" excuse without any trouble. Among Washington's spies were Hale,



Tallmadge, Culper. The latter figured hereabouts very conspicuously. His son, Culper, Jr., was of very great assistance to Washington. Their correspondence was written with an invisible ink, made visible by wetting the paper with a secret solution. Of course, there were traitorous spies. One of these was suspected of being in league with the enemy. One day Colonel Hamilton had prepared what appeared to be a careful statement of the condition of the army, exaggerating the number of men and arms, which statement he left upon a table while he left the room. Upon his return, the statement and the spy who was there when he had stepped out, were gone. This statement saved the Americans from an intended attack from the British.

John Moody was a Washington spy. Spies of both sides had their eyes on Acquackanonk bridge. They were quite numerous, and in time came to be well known. Ensign Moody was one of the most prominent among them. Associated with him was James O'Hara, for whose apprehension Governor Livingston on August 3, 1781, offered "\$200 of the bills of this State for the arrest of Ensign Moody and his party." Moody issued an amusing counter proclamation offering "200 guineas true money for Livingston's delivery alive to the Provost of New York, or half that sum for his ears and nose, which are too well known and too remarkable to be mistaken." On March 1, 1781, O'Hara was at Acquackanonk, whence he went to New York and reported the next day to his superior officer that there was a small guard of a dozen men in this neighborhood, at Second River, now Belleville; that thirty men guarded the stores at Pompton, and that "Washington came down with the troops."

On the same day "Uzal Woodruff reported that he had left Jersey yesterday; that the New York line and part of the Jersey line, he heard, were going against Arnold." Perhaps they thought of passing through Acquackanonk.

On February 28, 1781, "Christian Lowzier and Richard Van Riper say they live at Acquaquenunek, which place they left Monday last. It was reported that part of Washington's army were to go to the southward," &c. "P. S. The above two men are come in, as it appears to me, only on the scheme of trade; they effect to be ignorant of publick matters." (Signed) COL. ROBINSON.

The Van Riper above referred to was, in fact, a captain in Colonel Thomas's battalion of detached militia. He lived on the River road near Van Houten avenue. The Lowzier referred to was Peter Lozier, a lieutenant in Colonel Fell's Battalion, State troops. He lived near Lodi. They disguised themselves as civilians, and went to New York really as spies for the Americans.

On March 18, 1781, "Daniel Martin of Paramus reported at headquarters that 200 men came from West Point to Tappan yesterday." He undoubtedly was in the company of Hugh Stewart McLellan, who





left Albany February 15th, and, as he says, "came to Aquaquenunk."

Sir Henry Clinton's spy, Gould, reported to him January 20, 1781, that the Jersey Brigade had mutinied at Pompton. Gould, no doubt, was there, and returned to New York by the way of Acquackanonk, to pick up all the news he could, this being an important point. During the few days of the mutiny, Acquackanonk witnessed the passing to and fro of officers who effected a settlement of the trouble.

Joseph Clarke, another Clinton spy, passed through here in July, 1781. On his way to Paramus he met the Jersey brigade, but quitted the road and lay down in a wood about fifty yards distant, when they passed him. About the same time Peter Beattie and Michael Campbell travelled through here privately from Newark to Hackensack. They were taken prisoners by the Jersey brigade. They were detained and marched from Newbridge to Sneading's block house, but taking advantage of a halt, they made their escape into the woods.

A system of beacon lights was in use. One of these was on the high bluff at the Notch, in charge of Major Parr; another was at Denville, on the high eminence called Fort Hill, in charge of Captain Josiah Hall; another was at Short Hills, near Madison, which was called the "watch-tower of freedom of the Revolutionary War." At each of these points was kept a cannon, an 18-pounder, called the "old sow," which was fired as the signal for alarm. The beacons were constructed of dry wood piled around a high pole; this was filled with combustible materials, and a tar barrel was placed upon the top of the pole. When the sentinels discovered any threatened movement of the enemy, either the alarm cannon was fired, or the beacon kindled. Many were the alarms given in this way.

After the first outbreak in the war of the Revolution, and on August 23, 1775, the King issued a proclamation calling upon all loyal subjects to suppress the rebellion, and later General Gage issued his proclamation declaring all those who assisted in the rebellion, rebels and traitors. On the other hand, the legislatures of several colonies passed laws declaring that all persons who should assist Great Britain should be guilty of high treason, their person attainted, and their property confiscated. The Loyalists, therefore, were placed in a critical and dangerous predicament.

In 1776, Lord Viscount Howe, and shortly after Lord and General Howe, issued proclamations calling upon all rebels to lay down their arms, offering them pardon and protection.

In 1778, His Majesty's Commissioner declared that regard must be paid to the many who had exposed themselves to suffer and to whom Great Britain owed support at every expense of blood and treasure, calling upon all Americans to assist Great Britain.

In this same year (1778) Congress, desirous of winning the Loyalists, recommended to the several States the repeal of all sanguinary





laws against them, and restoring their property which had been confiscated, and Washington made overtures to them to protect them. Yet nothing was done, and the Loyalists, although they saw their cause was lost, whereby they were placed in the most distressing position, remained true to Great Britain, and their loyalty and zeal remained undiminished, nor did they desert their sinking cause until it deserted them.

At length, in 1782, negotiations for peace were considered in Paris, where the Loyalists, after the assurances of his Majesty, had good right to expect, and made a strong fight, to have an article inserted for annulling the sanguinary laws, which attainted their person and confiscated their property. But this was denied them, for then and there his Majesty gave up the point, and ceded the property of the Loyalists as a recompense and satisfaction for damages sustained by the Americans, and as the price of the purchase of peace for the Empire.

In the debate on the ratification of peace in February, 1783, one of the members of parliament expressed the wish that better terms had been secured for the Loyalists, and added, "But I do not think it was to be expected that those who were victorious should give up their estates." Parliament appointed a commission of five men to pass upon the claims of Loyalists for their losses.

David Ogden, a Newark lawyer, was sent to London to present the claims of New Jersey Loyalists, of whom there were 413 with claims amounting to about \$50,000, including the value of real estate and personal property. After the restoration of peace, the Loyalists had a hard time of it. They were not wanted, and were forced to flee to Canada. Not one remained in any State.

For many years after the Revolution a celebration was held here each Fourth of July, during which for at least twenty years, those who had been in active service, assembled here and paraded on the present River drive, headed by John Parcel and Robert Walker, former express riders. William Conkling, drum major; Jonathan H. Osborn and Henry Walter, drummers, and Abraham H. King and David Crane, fifers. After the parade all would assemble, if a fair day, in front of the old church, but on stormy occasions in the old tavern adjoining the church, whose pastor, that fatherly patriot, presided over the assemblage, making addresses full of good counsel and encouragement. In addition odes, composed for the occasion by home talent, would be sung by the crowd.

The following Odes were sung at the celebration of the Sixty-second Anniversary of American Independence, at Acquackanonk, N. J., July 4th, A. D. 1837:

#### ODE I.

Columbial Columbial to Glory arise,  
The Queen of the World, and the Child of the Skies,  
Thy Genius commands thee, with rapture behold,  
While ages on ages, thy splendour unfold;



## PASSAIC AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Thy reign is the last, and the noblest of time,  
 Most fruitful thy soil most inviting thy clime:  
 Let the crimes of the East, ne'er incrimson thy name,  
 Be Freedom, and Science, and Virtue thy fame.

To conquest and slaughter let Europe aspire,  
 Whelm nations in blood, and wrap cities in fire,  
 Thy heroes, the rights of mankind shall defend,  
 And triumph pursue them, and glory attend;  
 A World is thy Realm—for a world be thy laws,  
 Enlarg'd as thy empire, as just as thy cause;  
 On Freedom's broad basis, that Empire shall rise,  
 Extend with the main, and dissolve with the skies.

Fair Science her gates, to thy sons shall unbar,  
 And the East see thy morn hide the beams of her star;  
 New bards and new sages unrival'd shall soar,  
 To Fame unextinguish'd, when Time is no more;  
 To thee—the last refuge of virtue design'd,  
 Shall fly from all nations—the best of mankind;  
 Here grateful to Heaven—with transport shall bring  
 Their incense, more fragrant than odours of spring.

Nor less shall thy Fair ones to glory ascend,  
 And Genius and Beauty in harmony blend;  
 Their graces of form shall awake pure desire,  
 And the charms of the soul, still enliven the fire;  
 Their sweetness unmingled, their manners refin'd  
 And Virtue's bright image instamp'd on the mind,  
 With peace and sweet rapture shall cause life to glow  
 And light up a smile in the aspect of woe.—

Thy fleets to all regions, thy pow'r shall display.  
 The nations admire, and the ocean obey:  
 Each shore to thy glory it's tribute unfold,  
 And the East & the South, yield their spices & gold  
 As the day spring unbounded, thy splendours shall flow,  
 And the earth's Little Kingdoms before thee shall bow.  
 While the ensigns of Union in Triumph unfurl'd,  
 Hush Anarchy's sway, and give peace to the world.

Thus as down a lone valley, with cedars o'erspread,  
 From the noise of the world I pensively stray'd;  
 The gloom from the face of fair Heaven retired,  
 The winds ceased to murmur, the thunders expired,  
 Perfumes, as of Eden, flow'd sweetly along,  
 And a voice—as of Angels—enchantingly sung,  
 Columbia!—Columbial to glory arise,  
 The Queen of the World, and child of the Skies.

With the lapse of time and by patient study, it becomes evident that during the early or formative period of the development of our country and in both the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812, old Acquackanonk, or Passaic, as we know it, furnished its heroes and men that dared to do, as well as other communities, the acts of whose men have been told in story, and sung in hymns of praise. Old Acquackanonk differs only in the fact that the acts of her brave men have neither been told nor sung, either in story or hymn.

Previous to, and at the outbreak of the Revolution there lived in an old stone Dutch farm house, which then stood on the westerly side of River road, at the present north corner of Westervelt place, a man by the name of Daniel Neil. He was a merchant dealing in metal, iron and copper ore, and had an interest in several vessels employed in shipping that ore, which in wagons, was carted from the mines far up the State to his dock. The Erie Railroad passes over the greater portion of that old dock, of which, however, there still remains some part which is now owned by the city. The land along the river was the front of his farm, the greater part of which





is included in the Passaic Bridge Park. In addition to his other duties, 'tis said that he conducted a tavern in the old house, and that General Washington took dinner there at noon on November 22, 1776. Although one is inclined to smile when this fact is mentioned, still, in the light of subsequent events, it does not seem improbable that Washington did that very thing. The old house burned to the ground on the night of April 6, 1860. Subsequent to Neil, the farm was owned, for many years, by Dr. Benjamin R. Scudder, an old practitioner of this locality, who was of the renowned missionary family of that name. One of his daughters, Susan, married Rev. Peter D. Froeligh, of the True Reformed Dutch Church, whose building stood at the present locality, 641 Main avenue. He committed suicide.

Daniel Neil came here from New York City, where he had been engaged in the same business for a number of years, but in what year, is not known. We find him here in 1773. He had business relations with Isaac Roosevelt, the great-great-grandfather of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, to whom he conveyed his residence on Queen street, New York, where they had been neighbors several years. At the breaking out of the Revolution Neil was doing a good business, which continued prosperous, because there was great demand for iron in warfare; and yet, his love of country and interest in the success of the Colonies were greater and of more importance to him than self gain. Many men would have considered it foolhardy to abandon a lucrative business which was growing and promising greater gains for the future. He had a charming wife, a comfortable home, was in comfortable circumstances and possessed every advantage, comfort and convenience of his day and generation. He was about thirty-six years of age, educated, and every inch a gentleman. If these and similar conditions were not sufficient to induce him to remain at home, his surroundings, public opinion and the very atmosphere gave every encouragement not to engage in the activities of the battlefield. It must be confessed that in those days this community numbered, not only many Tories, particularly among the well-to-do, but many of the same class who were indifferent and did not even hope for the success of the cause of American freedom. To these may be added Loyalists, who were not only loyal, but aggressive. One in particular, Robert Drummond, a brother merchant, contemporaneously with Daniel Neil, was industriously engaged in recruiting a company of 200 men which he succeeded in doing, and with him as their commander, allied themselves under the standard of the King. His nearest neighbor, (a family name familiar here, New York and Brooklyn, and very influential), did his utmost to swerve Neil, but to no purpose. Some of the family referred to after the war, were banished to Canada, their property being confiscated by the State.

During the year 1776, this State was continually at the mercy of the incursions of the British troops, and the ravages of refugees and Indians. It was also the theater of many battles, skirmishes and forage expeditions, greatly to the annoyance of the inhabitants, as well as dangerous to the government. It was found necessary, therefore, to embody, as occasion required, a certain quota of volunteers from the militia of the different counties. These men were liable for duty when needed, holding themselves in readiness for instant action.

These organizations were called "New Jersey Levies," "Five Months' Levies," but were most generally known as "State's Troops."

On February 13, 1776, the Provincial Congress resolved that two artillery companies be raised in this Colony. On March 1, the officers were chosen of the two companies; one company to be stationed in the eastern and one in the western division of the State. Each company, with officers, numbered sixty-four men, everyone selected with care. Their term was for one year.

On March 1, 1776, Daniel Neil became Captain of the eastern company. Up to the time of General Washington's retreat through Acquackanonk, this company had simply been doing police duty, and as yet had not been called into active service



in the field; and it was not until December 4, 1776, that this company was annexed to Colonel Thomas Proctor's regiment of artillery, Continental Army, and assigned to General Knox's brigade of artillery.

With Washington's retreat began New Jersey's bitter experiences of the war. From this time on to the end of hostilities, the soil of New Jersey was the board upon which many of the most desperate of the Revolutionary war games were played and Old Acquackanonk witnessed and suffered much from the conflict or plunder of the enemy. With the exception of the winter in Valley Forge, the Virginia campaign against Cornwallis, in 1781, the continental troops were constantly in, or on, the confines of the State.

These were the days that tried men's souls, as Thomas Paine, of that time, wrote. In the middle of November, 1776, the Americans surrendered Fort Washington and a portion of their army under Washington himself was obliged to abandon Fort Lee and retreat. Washington and the remnant of his army reached Acquackanonk (Passaic) the evening of November 21, and remained here that night, the following day, if not that night also. Many of the American troops were leaving the service because their terms had already expired, and many more would leave before the end of the year, because of the expiration of their terms, also. Washington was doing his utmost to retain the men, and to gather new ones. He appealed to Congress, and also to Governor Livingston, but he received no assistance, because of lack of money, which, although there was considerable, had practically no value. The soldiers were great sufferers. It is hard to realize that many had no coat, hat nor shoes, but such was the fact. I have before me now a statement of David Gordon, who served as patrol in front of Washington's room that night of November 21, wherein he says that because of the rough, frozen, uneven ground, the men without shoes suffered terribly, many of whom spent the night caring for wounded, lacerated feet, and for shoes, wrapped their feet in straw, hay, shavings or pieces of old horse blankets, or any old thing they could find. But space forbids the recounting of the sufferings of those poor fellows, right here in this vicinity.

On the other hand, the British army had its full quota of well provisioned, paid and clothed men, who were pursuing the Americans, with victory upon the surrender of Washington, to the mind of Cornwallis, all ready to pluck.

Our hero, Captain Neil, had been watching things, and, as above stated, while he had not been called into active service, he felt that his services were needed and that now was the time to act. He called upon Washington with whom he made arrangements to join the main army as soon as he could get his company together. He arranged with a neighbor to carry on his business, and before many days, was ready with his little company and started off.

Among the artillery that was jolting and rumbling over the stumps and frozen ruts, was a New Jersey command known as the "Eastern Battery," eager to do its part in the conflict. Little did its valiant captain realize that this was his road to death. He won the commendation of Washington himself for the efficient service rendered by his men at Trenton, and almost the last voice Neil heard was that of Washington, who learning immediately after the battle of Princeton, of January 3, 1777, that Captain Neil had been wounded in his attempt to dislodge a portion of the Fortieth British Regiment from Nassau Hall, accompanied his surgeon, General Rush, to where Neil had fallen. He was mortally wounded, and the doctor told Washington that Neil could not possibly recover. He took the young man by the hand and expressed his appreciation of his good, faithful service and hoped that he would soon be able to be about again, but he died that night, having been shot through the stomach. He was an intrepid fighter and never hesitated to fight, even though odds might be against him.





Washington felt keenly the loss of Captain Neil, whom he intended to advance in the military line, realizing that Neil was an exceptionally good soldier.

Captain Neil was buried with his comrades killed in this same battle, at Princeton. His widow still continued to reside here in the homestead, until February 6, 1780, when she was married to Colonel Samuel Hay and went to Newark. She died about six years after the death of her beloved husband. After her death Colonel Samuel Hay, her legal representative, presented to the State the following claim for damages, inflicted by the British, on their plunder raids, to prevent which, Captain Neil's company was organized:  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons English hay,  $\frac{1}{2}$  load of flax, 120 panels of fence, 2 horses, all valued at fifty-six pounds, stolen in years 1776, 1778, 1779. This, as well as all similar claims, were never paid.

On September 15, 1777, Governor Livingston suggested to the legislature the erection of a monument to his memory in order to incite the same valor in others, which he exhibited on the battlefield. The records fail to show anything done.

WILLIAM WINDS—One of the bravest, if not the bravest of Washington's generals was William Winds, of Rockaway, in Morris county, who not only accompanied him on his retreat, November, 1776, but who was stationed here both before and after that event and succeeded in controlling the British in their raids. He was brave and daring and rendered valuable service throughout the entire period of the war and lived until October 12, 1789.

After the organization of the militia, an order was issued that the several members, while going about, or attending public meetings, should carry their gun along. It thus came about that members here might often be seen in church with their musket beside them. During the service a courier would dash through the village spreading the alarm of the approach of the British. This happened Sunday, July 26, 1778, but proved a false alarm, although several of the militia attending service were duly armed ready for emergencies.

General Winds was of large physique, powerful voice and great courage. He was not only a good fighter, but very tactical, which was never shown to greater advantage than upon one occasion when he was surprised by the appearance, in the distance, of a superior force of the British, whereupon he roared: "Open to the right and left, and let the artillery through," in a tone that struck terror into the enemy, who wheeled about and hastily marched away, expecting attack by the artillery which was there only in the brain of the General.

On one occasion, while his company was awaiting ammunition to use in driving the British away from this vicinity, where they were continually committing depredations, General Winds appeared, wanting to know why they did not proceed, repeating his question several times, receiving the answer that they had no ammunition to fight with. At last, when he could restrain his patience and anger no longer, he bawled out in tones loud enough to have been heard for half a mile: "Damn it, if you haven't powder and ball to fight the cowards, give





them hell with stones." He meant, and would have had his men to fight in that way, but before they had gathered many stones, powder and ball arrived.

On one occasion, at the close of an extremely hot day, General Winds, at the head of his intrepid company of men, arrived at Acquackanonk Bridge, on their march over the very dusty roads, from Ramapo to Newark. The men were tired and in need of rest, and made a halt on the plain, as it was called, in front of the Reformed church, and while resting were addressed by the General as follows: "Brother soldiers, we must get to Newark tonight, which we cannot do and march in a body. Let every man make his way as best he can, and when we get there each of you shall have half a gill of rum for your tea." "O, captain," was the response, "make it a gill and then we can do it." "Well, all right, a gill it shall be," was the captain's answer, adding: "But halt when you get this side of Newark, and march into town as brother soldiers should—in order."

The march was commenced and continued to their destination, in a go-as-you-please fashion, but all keeping together. When they arrived at the Gully road, which now skirts the northerly line of the cemetery, North Newark, the men formed in company, and marched to Military Park, where they bivouacked for the night. General Winds was so well pleased with the good behaviour of his men who showed such willingness to serve him and with such good nature and cheerfulness, that he himself doled out the rum of the men, whose expressions of gratitude therefor made him happy, and caused him to forget his own exhaustion. Shortly after midnight, the men were called to go to Bergen (Jersey City), to break up a gang of tories. They did it, which the General said they could not have accomplished but for the rum, upon which he always relied in emergencies.

One Sunday morning in the month of October, 1778, General Winds was stationed at the Acquackanonk Bridge. The day was clear and the air crisp. In order that his troops might enjoy and benefit by the service then being held in the old Reformed church, he had them stationed, fully armed, about the building, the doors and windows of which were opened in order that the men might the better hear. The minister was Rev. Schoonmaker, possessed of a clear, strong voice which carried well, as did those of the congregation when united in singing. The subject for the sermon was, "Soldiers," whereby the dominie emphasized the fact that there was something that every one—the well, the sick, the maimed, and even the blind—could do as soldiers in God's army for the betterment of the world. After the service and while the words of the minister lingered in the minds of all who had heard, and as if to paraphrase them in the service of his troops, the General thus addressed them: "Brother soldiers," (his invariable salutation), "to-day, by the blessing of God, I mean to attack the enemy. All you that



are sick, lame or afraid, stay behind; for I don't want sick men; lame men can't run and cowards won't fight." He got them all.

#### 1779 AND NOW.

That history repeats itself, and human nature is pretty much the same today as it was nearly a century and half ago, is apparent when we read of the manner in which Americans conducted themselves so soon as they began to realize the fact that the bird of victory was perched upon their banners to remain.

It is only natural that we of today should so easily indulge in high prices, high wages and high rents, until something suddenly happens to dissipate the dream, and awakens us all to the fact that such things are too unreal to last, as did the participants of the days of 1779 and subsequent years.

In January, 1779, Washington wrote to Colonel Harrison, of Virginia, that, "speculation, peculation and an insatiable thirst for riches, seem to have got the best of every other consideration, and almost every order of men: that party disputes and petty quarrels are the great business of the day. whilst momentous concerns of an empire, a great and accumulating debt, ruined finances, depreciated money, and want of credit (which in its consequences is the want of everything) are but secondard considerations, and postponed from day to day, from week to week, as if our affairs were the most promising aspect. Our money is now sinking fifty per cent. a day and I shall not be surprised if in the course of a few months, total stop is put to the currency of it, and yet a concert, supper or dinner, costing three or four hundred pounds will not only take men off from acting in this business but from thinking about it." The cost of everything soared amazingly. The price of a pair of lisle gloves increased from fifty cents to \$7, while muslin brought \$24 a yard, ordinary gauze was \$50 a yard, while a common cloak and hat cost \$1,000, and a pair of shoes from \$50 to \$100. Mrs. Adrian Post paid \$60 for a petticoat which a year before could have been bought for \$2. Flour sold for \$1 the pound and butter \$4. Green peas must have brought great profit to farmers who received for them \$8 a peck. A silk handkerchief sold for \$40, a man's hat, \$400, leather breeches \$300, shoes \$125 to one of our prominent citizens, who paid \$1,600 for a complete outfit. Fish hooks brought fifty cents each. Even literature was affected. A copy of a monthly magazine sold for \$3. But there was plenty of money, of which, in the Spring of 1779, there was an issue of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. Its very abundance made it so cheap that ere long \$1 in gold equalled \$1,000 of Continental money.

Mechanics wages were inflated in keeping with high prices, masons pay was raised from \$3 to \$12 a day, carpenters from \$2 to \$10 and laborers from \$1 to \$4.





It was only natural that house rents should soar with other things. Houses that had been rented for \$20 a month, now brought \$100 to \$125, and rooms formerly \$4 to \$7 a month, were now renting for from \$12 to \$25. This condition continued more or less until after the war ended, when prices fell and mechanics, thousands idle, offered to work for as low as fifty cents a day.

Because of the victories attained by the Americans over the British, which presaged ultimate success for the former, the inhabitants of every hamlet, village, town and city, entered upon a period of extravagant luxury, in the midst of all its distresses, notwithstanding, depreciated currency and high prices, and the horrors of war, which they had seen and suffered. It began in Philadelphia, immediately after the British had been driven out, and was inaugurated to express the joy of every American therefor. But it was not confined to that city, from which it spread everywhere. Women were the leaders, going to the utmost extreme in luxuries of dress, equipage and table. In the meantime speculation ran riot and every form of wastefulness and extravagance prevailed, indulged in not only by the society set, but by staid families, who never before had attended any social function other than a wedding, or the dominie's donation party.

Even Acquackanonk Landing and vicinity could not refuse the call to join in the merry making. Dinner parties were held in the homes of John J. Vreeland, Henry Garritse, Christopher Steinmets and Henry Averson. The latter, who lived to be ninety-two, took pleasure in after years in describing this grand affair, dwelling at length upon the beautiful dresses of the women.

In addition to these house parties, there was a military ball and dinner, at the old tavern, in honor of General Stirling, who was the original commander of the bridge guard, which was quartered here during the war, and to commemorate the third anniversary of the destruction of the bridge on November 21, 1776, to prevent the British from capturing Washington and his intrepid army, who had just crossed over to this side, where Washington stayed that night at this tavern, writing several letters, one to Governor Livingston, requesting assistance.

No expense was spared to make this dinner a success, which was made possible because those in charge were farmers and merchants who were making money (such as it was) as never before, and in sums, which to relate sounded somewhat "fishy" to many. Even so, the cost of the affair, \$1,200, which James Leslie, the proprietor, received therefor, caused no little surprise to the villagers, and was commented upon for a long time, but when the hard times set in, those responsible for this great out-lay were denounced not only, but besought to make liberal contributions to the poor fund of the township. But alas! these great riches disappeared more quickly than made, dissolving, as it were, in



mid-air, and many thought rich became poor, in the most trying of years following the war.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS.

In those momentous days leading up to the Revolution there were patriots living here—men of giant intellect, keen discernment, profound judgment and a determination to carry out to the end whatever they thought was right.

They, with their neighbors, had suffered the iniquitous measures of Parliament which attempted to compel them to pay: first a stamp tax on writing paper, which, rather than pay, led their lawyers, justices and others, to forego the use of paper, using white birch bark instead. The early repeal of this law, and the passage of one imposing a tax upon imported painters' and artists' materials, led to a refusal to import these articles, whereupon the law was repealed, substituting a tax on tea, payment of which was resisted. This led to a reduction of the tax. But Parliament lost sight of the fact that it was not the amount of the tax which was the cause of opposition, but the principle that believed in taxation without representation. Destruction of all imported tea was the answer to this tax. This was followed by the closing of Boston port and the removal of its custom house to Salem. In the meantime the farmers hereabouts, "kept their ears to the ground," and followed closely public affairs, as reported by sailors who visited this port, and by reading their weekly papers.

On May 3, 1775, a meeting was held in the old tavern which stood nearly in front of the old church, to protest the acts of the British government and appoint a committee to act with committees of other townships, in opposing all attempts to enforce the obnoxious laws.

This committee numbered twenty-three of whom there are buried in the old graveyard:

Michael Vreeland, the chairman; Henry Garritse, Peter Peterse, John Berry, Thomas Post, Richard Ludlow, John Spier, Jacob Van Riper, Lucas Wessels, Francis and Cornelius Van Winkle, Henry Post, Jr., John Post, Jacob Vreeland, Abraham Van Riper, and Dr. Nicholas Roche, a surgeon in the army.

Unfortunately many of the gravestones were carved out of soft sandstone, which in less than a century disappeared.

Of those marking the graves of these patriots only seven remain at the present time, and owe their preservation to the fact that they are not of the sandstone variety, but are hard brown stone of the same character as the stone used in the construction of the Dundee dam, which may still be found in a certain hay field near Main avenue, in the city of Clifton.

All these men were farmers, with the exceptions of Cornelius Van Winkle, Thomas Post and John Berry who operated grist mills, and



Richard Ludlow, who conducted a general store and engaged in river commerce from his dock at the foot of Westervelt place.

Every man was serious and felt the responsibility of their action not knowing what the result would be, aware, however, of the fact that if they failed in carrying out their resistance to the government, they would be branded as rebels, lose all their property and perhaps their lives. But because they were contending for principles and not politics they dared to risk their wealth and their lives.

Of these twenty-three men, two turned renegades, Thomas Ryder, who resided on the Weasel mountain near Garret rock. He became a Tory and was implicated in the murder of Jonathan Hopper, an ardent patriot, in 1779.

Robert Drummond, a merchant and shipper, whose store and dock were opposite the tavern in which this committee met, became a Loyalist and recruited a company of two hundred men of which he became major, and joined the British forces. To the credit of old Acquackanonk be it said, not one of the two hundred were citizens within her borders—all being from the county of Bergen, which was a hot-bed of Toryism, as also was that portion of the State of New York contiguous to that county.

The Park Commissioners delegated to Park Superintendent, John R. Johnson and City Engineer, Colin R. Wise, the delicate and, by them considered, sacred task of removing the remains from that portion (about one-half) of the yard required for an armory. The remaining half of the old graveyard including the original one acre within the first burial was made in 1693 will remain as it then appeared—without a stone—including the ancient vault wherein the bones of the body of that fervid and earnest Revolutionary hero, the Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker, still repose.

Work was begun May 16, 1921, and completed June 30th—or about six weeks altogether.





## CHAPTER XXV.

### PASSAIC IN THE WAR OF 1812.

Old Acquackanonk (Passaic) in the olden time stood as today she stands ever ready to place herself in the van of any and every matter or thing that would inure to the general welfare of all, and in addition to being ready, she was among the first to take action. The names of many of her sons are preserved upon the rolls of honor of the Revolutionary War, 1776-1783; Expedition against the Indians, 1791; Pennsylvania Insurrection, 1794; Naval War with France, 1798-1801; Naval War with Tripoli, Africa, 1801-1805; War with Great Britain, 1812-1815; Naval War with Algiers, Africa, 1815; Mexican War, 1846; Civil War, 1861-1865; Spanish-American War, 1898-1899, and World War.

In all of these she furnished her full quota of men, and, although the early settlers had experienced great suffering and hardships, in order to afford meagre sustenance and needed comforts, to their soldiers during the Revolution, they were willing to continue their sacrifices in the War of 1812, with the same old foe, Great Britain.

Two months before war was declared between the United States and Great Britain, New Jersey had begun to place herself in a position to defend her sea coasts and harbors. On April 10th, 1812, Congress passed an act authorizing the President to require of the Executives of the several States and Territories measures to organize, arm and equip and hold in readiness to march at a moment's warning their respective proportions of one hundred thousand militia, officers included, to be appointed by the President. The term of service to be not more than six months.

War was declared June 18, 1812; on the 20th, Governor Bloomfield, of New Jersey, who had been appointed Brigadier General in the United States army, and assumed command of the third military district with headquarters in New York City, announced the declaration of war at 9:30 a. m. from his headquarters at the Battery. This was the first military announcement, to troops, of the declaration of war. New Jersey's quota of the one hundred thousand men required was five thousand.

Notwithstanding the impoverished condition of the inhabitants, and of the State treasury as a result of the Revolutionary War, in less than a week from the declaration of war, five thousand of New Jersey's intrepid patriots enlisted for the war, for which treble that number were ready to serve.

The alacrity with which men responded to the call and their determination to fight for their State was commented upon by the commander in chief in a letter to the New Jersey militia under date of September



15th, 1813, wherein he "avails himself of the present occasion to express his satisfaction at the degree of patience, perseverance and determination and orderly conduct of those who thus served their State."

To be a soldier then meant more in the way of actual, personal, equipment of the individual, than it does today. On March 24, 1813, the Governor issued an order enjoining upon every enrolled militiaman to provide himself with a good musket or firelock, a sufficient bayonet and belt, two spare flints and a knapsack, a pouch to contain not less than twenty-four cartridges suited to the bore of his musket.

In addition to the 5,000 detached militiamen set apart for the war of which Essex county's proportion was 312 (Passaic then being in that county) there were twenty-eight volunteer companies composed of five of artillery and twenty-three of infantry and riflemen. "Their formation was purely a manifestation of public virtue in order that the world might see that the moment the enemy lands on our shores he will be met by freemen in arms, able and willing to defend their country; and, because the citizens of New Jersey were among the first in our glorious struggle for independence and in the formation of our national government they will not be last in arms to maintain what they have so heroically contributed to achieve and wisely to establish," in the words of Governor Pennington.

Captain Jeremiah Mitchell organized in Passaic, in a building now known as No. 153 River drive, a company called "Captain Jeremiah Mitchell's Company of Rangers, Third Regiment, New Jersey, Detailed Militia," of which William Colfax was brigadier-general, and Stephen Grover, chaplain. Colfax had served under Washington and Stephen Grover was a minister of a church at Caldwell, subsequently presided over by the father of Grover Cleveland, ex-President of the United States. The following named persons composed Mitchell's company:

Jeremiah Mitchell, captain; Adrian E. Vreeland, lieutenant; Ruliff Bogert, ensign; Peter Powelson, James Vanderbilt, Barney Pier, sergeants; Garrabrandt Speer, Jacob Edwards, Garret Speer, Henry Glass, corporals; Henry Post, drummer; John Linford, fifer, and Privates Garrabrant, Garrabrant, Moses Gould, Richard D. Paxton, Elias I. Post, Allen Quimby, John J. Riker, Henry Schoonmaker, Adrian A. Sip, Barney Speer, Henry H. Speer, John G. Speer, John H. Speer, Peter C. Speer, Jacob I. Stagg, Abraham Van Houten, John A. Van Riper, Philip Van Riper, Harmon Van Wagoner and Jacob C. Vreeland.

In addition to Captain Mitchell's company there were a number of men hereabouts who joined other companies, among them being: Marinus Van Winkle, William Ennis, Abraham Riker, John Stager, Abraham Van Riper, Cornelius Falkneer, Abram Speer, Cornelius Speer, Tunis T. Speer, William Speer. All of the above named served to the end of the war and were honorably discharged on December 2nd, 1814.

Captain Mitchell was buried in the cemetery of the old Reformed





Church, as were many of the others, not all, however, had tombstones to mark their last resting place. So far as appears only the following had tombstones erected on their graves: Adrian E. Vreeland, Peter Powlesson, Philip Van Riper, John A. Van Riper and Herman Van Wagoner. In this old cemetery are the graves of soldiers who took part in every one of the wars in which our country has been engaged.



## CHAPTER XXVI.

### MILLS.

The first industry established in old Acquackanonk was a tannery, subsequently turned into a brewery. The first mill proprietor was Stephen Bassett.

There is a tradition that about 1673, white men visited here, for the purpose of trading with the Indians; while it is well known that about 1730 Stephen Bassett and Harmanse Van Barkaloo began trading here. In fact, the place offered such great inducements for trading, and possessed such excellent advantages for business, that it was soon selected for that purpose, and was certainly one of the earliest Indian trading posts in the State. Van Barkaloo was from the town of New Utrecht, Long Island, and as is supposed, was related in some way to William Barkaloo of that place. In a list of the inhabitants of that town, in 1698, his name is given and states that he had three children and two slaves in his family, besides his wife, all of whom were then living. In a list of all the slaves in that town, on May 1, 1755, Saartje Barkeloo is credited with two.

It is interesting to note in this connection that in the adjoining towns of Flatbush and Flatlands there was settled at that time the Hooglandt family to which Christopher Hooglandt, the first purchaser of the Point Patent and the island, was related. Hermanus Hooglandt was an elder in the Dutch Reformed church at Flatlands, and William Hogelandt was a soldier in the King's county militia.

The Reformed Dutch Church of the State of New York, particularly on Long Island, was interested in the propagation of the gospel in these parts, and in the early days of the establishment of churches in this State the churches on Long Island were closely allied with the work here. Dominie Selyns, who also preached in Brooklyn in 1660, is credited with having preached here also about that time. It may have been in this way that Barkaloo was led to come here.

Stephen Bassett had a tannery and tap house at the corner of Ferry and Pearl streets, New York city. He also came from Long Island. He soon found that here at Passaic he could get from the Indians all the hides he wanted. It served his purpose admirably and it was not long ere he disposed of his business in New York and came here to establish it on a larger scale. From what can be learned, he came and settled here permanently about 1735, and established the *first manufacturing industry* in the county, and perhaps in the State. He selected for his factory the site now occupied by the triangular brick building at the apex of the angle formed by Madison street, Central and Lexington



avenues. He chose this spot because it was on the King's Highway, as Lexington avenue was then called, the same having been regularly laid out in 1707, and through which ran a brook that supplied him with the water necessary for his tannery. Here he continued tanning the skins of animals brought him by the Indians, of which there was a great quantity. Of animals there were the deer, wolf, bear and fox, the raccoon, muskrat, opossum and skunk. After tanning, it was an easy matter to ship the skins by boat to New York. It was about this time that the settlers opened their eyes to the fact that the country possessed valuable natural resources, which they took advantage of, and were soon in the shipping business themselves, of which more will be said in another part of this work.

Stephen Bassett continued his business until his death in 1763, at the age of fifty-six years. He seems to have been a successful businessman and made money. After his death the factory was turned into a brewery, and conducted by a man who went by the Christian name of Abram. In speaking of him, he was referred to as "Abraham the brewer," which resulted in his adopting the name Abram de Brewer at first, but finally, Abram Brower became his real name.

Tradition tells a pretty story about this man to the effect that he had no family or surname, but was referred to and spoken of as Abram de brewer, and that finally this was corrupted into Abram Brower. This tradition has passed current to the present day among those acquainted with the matter. But in the light of recent investigations by the writer, the traditional cobwebs are brushed aside, to allow the light of history to cast its beams over the subject, revealing the fact that even in those early days Brower or Brewer was the name of a family, the founder of which was Adam Brouwer Berckhoven, who was born at Cologne and came to New York, where he settled in 1642. His son Jacob married Anna Bogardus, who was presumably the father of our Abram, who had a son Theophilis, who upon the death of Abram continued the business, but only for a short time, when he left here and went to New York.

Stephen Bassett having the honor of being the first manufacturer here, a view of his headstone is here inserted. His body at his death was placed in the cemetery of the old Reformed Dutch Church at Acquackanonk, at a spot lying between the church and the present Gregory avenue. The cemetery then embraced only a yard, perhaps two hundred yards square. Mr. Bassett was a relative of the late Judge Simmons.

The business of the old tannery, after Bassett's death, was conducted by Lucas Wessels, who resided in a stone house, now no more, which stood upon the site now occupied by the Erie depot on Lexington avenue. Wessels was a prominent man in his day. He was surveyor, clerk of the old Dutch church, scrivener, and a general, handy, all-





around man. Although no lawyer, he seems to have acted in the capacity of one, drawing deeds, wills and other legal documents, and his name is very often seen on legal papers and maps of his time. The writer has also seen his water mark on what might be called leather-parchment, which he manufactured at this old mill.

Aside from this brewery and tannery there is no record of any industry having been established for more than a hundred years after the first settlement, with the exception of a saw mill and grist mill.

The first of these to be erected was that of Enoch Vreeland, which was near the present corner of Monroe and Louise streets, where for many years the trees of the forest were cut up into building material, and the grain of the farmers ground for domestic purposes for man and beast.

(Dirk) Vreeland's brewery was located on the brewery brook, south side of the present Brook avenue, near River road. A small pond lay in its rear, which supplied the water needed for power, as well as for distilling purposes. The business was a sort of joint stock affair. Twelve men, farmers of the neighborhood, controlled it, using it for their individual purposes. These were the days when no license was required to distil liquors. It was the custom of the farmers to manufacture a great quantity of cider in the fall, and this cider they would distil. Each one of the twelve, in rotation, or order, would be allowed a certain time to do his distilling. The work was mostly done in the winter time, and it was considered quite a treat to engage in this work. A farmer would go with his men and sons to the old brewery and spend several days or weeks there, according to the quantity of cider to be distilled. One of the greatest pleasures of a young man's life in those days was to get permission of the father to stay all night in the brewery and attend to the distilling without interruption. Besides attending to their work, the young men often relieved the tedious hours by inviting their lady friends to visit them. The floor would be cleared and, to the tunes from the fiddle of the old colored man, dancing was kept up far into the night. No doubt the distilled liquor that came from this old brewery, tasted far better to the young folks than any other kind.

Money being scarce, all expenses were paid in liquor, the owner of the premises receiving as his share one-tenth of the liquor distilled. When the government took a hand in the liquor business, regulating and taxing it, the farmers gave up the business and the old brewery went to ruin.

Vreeland's pond was named after Enoch J. Vreeland, the son of Jacob E., who first formed it, about the year 1822. Before the formation of the pond there was no sheet of water—simply the Weasel brook, whose old course in the bottom of the pond may still be seen whenever the pond is drained. The land at the lower end of the pond lies within



the Clas Vrelandt-Dirck Vrelandt lot No. 1, shown on the old map of Gotham, made two hundred years ago.

Enoch J. Vreeland erected a dam and grist mill. This first dam was nearly three hundred feet south of the present dam, and the grist mill stood near the old homestead of Enoch, on the west side of the old dam, very near the present line of Monroe street. The dam was a small affair, not over eight feet high. The mill was run and operated by an overshot wheel into the buckets of which the water plunged from a sluice, constructed about a foot below the level of the water in the dam and about eight feet wide. The water-wheel was one of those primitive structures made of oak wood and sufficient to outlast even an iron one. It would be interesting to know who constructed it—whether there was business enough in those days to give enough work to a millwright? It is probable, however, that Vreeland not only found material, which he perhaps obtained from his woods upon the mountain, but with his own hands fashioned the wheel, built the dam and erected the mill, for 'tis said he was of a mechanical turn of mind, and did much of his own mechanical work, besides farming. The grist mill did a good business, and farmers for miles around brought their grist here. An old lane upon the present site of Monroe street, led from the Weasel road down to the mill. Vreeland's old stone house stood between Monroe street and the brook facing the latter. The rear end of the house just about touched Monroe street. The garden lay in front of the house bordering the brook. To the south of the house lay a road that led from the barns southwest of the house, in a northeasterly direction across the brook and then turned a northerly course, passed the east end of the dam and followed the east side of the pond to Vreeland's fields above Monroe street. A finer selection for a residence could not better be imagined. On the north was the pond, on the west an apple orchard of fine fruit, on the south a great field where the sun shone with such warmth as to heat the whole surroundings in cold weather, and served as an encouragement to the breezes in the summer time, and then to make the spot more charming, a lovely, clear, sparkling brook, with its rippling, never-ending waters, flowed beautiful and bright, not only charming the eye, but lending an air of purity and sweetness, with its old-fashioned mint growing by its sides that perfumed the air all around, and then the landscape, stretching far and away on all sides, so calmly reflected a restfulness that was secure in the very sight. Ah! one can imagine how the people, who dwelled here in those early days, lived lives of sweet peace, which gently flowed as calmly as the brook. There was then no thousand and one things to take the people's attention and time as there is in these days of never-ending doing something to improve the condition of somebody or some thing. After a man or woman had finished his day's work, he was done for that day. And even now, in imagination, we can see the men coming home at night after a long, hard day's work, and after





the cattle were attended to, would wash up for supper, but first going to the spring for a drink. And, Oh! we remember the spring here spoken of, having often quaffed our own thirst at it, and, somehow or other, whether it was the location, under the spreading branches of a large willow tree, with a greensward of sweet clover, timothy and dandelion, daisy, buttercup and the old-fashioned mint growing all around, even down to its very water, or whether it was because we had no cup, and was glad to kneel down until our lips touched the cool waters and we drank without knowing how much; or whether it was the bubbling, boiling, restless motion of the fine, white, gravelly sand at the bottom, constantly forming into fantastic shapes and then changing instantly into something we imagined might be but which never materialized. What it was may never be known; but no matter, one thing is certain, however, we believed water never tasted better, nor looked clearer, nor felt cooler than the water of this old spring, which, no doubt, had served its purpose many, many years, and we venture to assert it was never condemned by any board of health by reason of its microbes. After the drink at the spring the farmer repaired to his supper, to which we believe him capable of doing justice, after which he would sit out under the trees and listen to the brook until he went to bed to enjoy that sweet repose which always comes to the sons of toil. Or, perhaps it is a winter's evening and the cattle all housed and fed for the night and the chores done. The situation changes from outdoors to the old fireplace in the kitchen. But first let me describe the house, which was stone, and even to the kitchen was two stories in height, with an old Dutch roof that projected several feet over in front, but behind it reached almost to the ground. It has been told the writer, as a fact, that the reason many of our forefathers built their houses with Dutch roofs was because in those days buildings were taxed according to the number of stories, and that a house with a Dutch roof, having properly speaking, two stories, was considered but a one-story building if the shingles came down to the top of the first story. The main building was about forty-five feet long and twenty odd feet wide, with a porch extending along the entire front of the kitchen and main building, between the first and second stories. A wide hall ran through the centre of the main building on the first floor with a large room on either side, each of which had an open fire-place flanked on each side with well-built panelled closets. The lower story of the main building was used mostly for storage and cellar purposes. The attic was one large, bare room, unfinished, and with no partitions. The upstairs above the kitchen was the parents' bedroom, possessing a generous open fireplace and cupboards. But the downstairs of the kitchen was *the* room of the house. Here is where the whole family all but lived leaving it only to go to bed in some of the large, cold rooms in the house.

It is in the kitchen we can find the family of a winter evening. The



men toasting themselves before the open log-fire—but not the women, probably, who always seemed to be so busy that their work was not done when bedtime came, when they would all separate early only to arise before daylight to commence where they had left off the day before.

So life ran along in this old house and mill until 1832 when Enoch J. and his wife Salome, conveyed the property to his father, Jacob E., and he immediately conveyed to his other son, John J. E., who continued the grist mill business until about 1845, when the dam was washed away and the mill went with it, never to be run again. It had never been a great money maker, and perhaps the owner thought it good riddance.

Old Acquackanonk has the credit of having had the first bleachery in this State where cotton bleaching was done by chemicals. As is well known, the great secret of successful bleaching lies in pure spring water. The old Weasel brook, after analysis, was found to be perfectly pure by James Shepherd, who in 1813 established a mill, or bleachery, on the Weasel brook, at the point where at the present time that stream crosses Highland avenue, just outside the city limits. After conducting it a few years, Shepherd sold out to James Rennie who soon became very successful, but the volume of water being too small, he found it necessary to look about for a larger stream which he found in the Saddle river at Lodi, where he removed his business.

James Nightingale succeeded him. He lived in the tap house on the hill, by the old Reformed Church. A Frenchman then took it and manufactured first opera and spy glasses. He did not succeed at that and then began to make hoop-skirts, in which he also failed. He then began to distil liquors, but was informed upon by one, Abraham Van Riper, (who, by the way received one-half of all property confiscated), and the entire plant was seized by the government and destroyed. The Frenchman fled the country. The old mill was destroyed by fire in the early sixties, and the pond and dam removed. Part of the latter remained for over thirty years, but no trace of it remains to mark the site, which is now covered with buildings. The mill and pond covered the block bounded by Van Winkle, Hope, Highland and Lake avenues.

The purity of the Weasel brook waters having become quite famous, had reached the ears of Fenton and Riley, of Massachusetts, bleachers and printers of cotton and linen goods, who came here prospecting for a mill site near a stream of pure water. On the site of Watson's Bleachery were several springs which suited their fancy. The result was that John J. E. Vreeland agreed to erect a new mill dam about one hundred feet farther north, and conduct the water for power by means of a trunk from the dam to the new mill that Vreeland was to erect, which was done, and the old grist mill-wheel was taken to supply the new mill with power. Part of the old grist mill was used in building the new mill, which was a three-story building about thirty by seventy feet, with many windows, and a small brick boiler-house attached. Fenton and





Riley gave up business after a few years, and were succeeded by a Frenchman by the name of Goutard, who bleached and dyed silk goods. Just as he was getting fairly started, the old dam was again washed away, his business brought to a standstill, and he gave up and left the place. The dam remained down for several years until 1856, when the Baldwin brothers came here from Malden, Massachusetts, to locate their bleachery. A new dam was erected a little farther north of the old dam, and privilege was given them to add a foot or two to the height of the dam if at any time it became necessary to insure the proper supply of water.

The Baldwins did not operate the mill long. The accidental death of a son of one of the brothers so weighed upon his mind that they gave up business. The mill remained unused until 1863, when the old dam was repaired and John Watson opened the mill. The old dam remained until about 1870, when the Acquackanonk Water Company demolished it and put up the present dam. A long law suit followed between John Watson and the company, over the contamination of the waters of the brook below the dam by reason of the company's water works, which they had erected to supply water from the Vreeland pond for the village of Passaic, which resulted in a victory for Watson. The Botany Worsted Mills now own what is left of the pond.

The first iron foundry in old Acquackanonk was that of Hiram Blanchard, who erected one in 1839, near the Erie Railroad bridge. His specialty was casting stoves and small machine castings. He was instrumental, by reason of his foundry, in making an addition of a score of families to the old town. He was an enthusiastic Methodist, and instrumental in forming the present Methodist church of Passaic, in which he was assisted by Mrs. Catherine Holsman, mother of State Senator Holsman, who resided across the river. Blanchard gave up business about 1856.

The Passaic Navigation company was incorporated by an act of the legislature in 1836, whereby it was empowered to improve the navigation of the Passaic river between Acquackanonk and Paterson, and to construct a canal or canals, dam or dams, which canal was to be at least seventy-five feet wide, and the water therein at least four feet deep. This company only went so far as to make a map showing the route of the canal, which was to run from the Dundee dam southerly in a direct line to a point about three hundred feet west of the foot of Park place, where it was to connect with the river by means of a lock. It was some twenty-two years thereafter that an act was passed giving the same powers to the Dundee Manufacturing Company, whose history is set forth in another part of this work.

Even though the early settlers may have lacked the pushing quality, the writer, in looking over some old laws affecting Passaic, was impressed with the spirit of enterprise shown by them.





In 1868 an act was passed incorporating the Passaic Mutual Insurance Company, whereby John N. Terhune, Alfred Speer, William S. Anderson, Richard A. Terhune, Walling Kip, Cornelius Marcelus, John V. S. Van Winkle, John T. Van Iderstine, Joseph T. Speer and Nicholas J. Kip, and their associates, successors and assigns, were made a body politic under the above name, and authorized to do a general insurance business. The charter was to continue thirty years. The company, however, was never organized, and consequently never engaged in business.

In the same year, Alfred Speer, John V. S. Van Winkle, Richard A. Terhune, Walling Kip, Nicholas J. Kip, William S. Anderson, Aaron Kinter, C. M. K. Paulison, John T. Van Iderstine, Wilhelmus Van Winkle, Aaron Van Iderstine and their successors, were constituted a body politic under the name of The Passaic Mutual Protective Union, and to continue twenty years. Every member was empowered to make arrests of any person found stealing or having stolen property, or setting fire to or in any way wilfully destroying property, or who had committed burglary. When the funds of the Union should amount to \$1,000, the directors were authorized to issue insurance against thefts. They never organized, and therefore never issued against burglaries.

More than thirty years ago an act was passed incorporating the Passaic Fire Insurance Company. The incorporators were John M. Howe, Abel Horton, Robert Foulds, G. Algert Gage, John A. McKean and Herman Schulting. The capital was \$200,000, divided into \$100 shares. The board of directors was to consist of nine stockholders divided into three classes holding office for one, two and three years, respectively. The company was authorized to effect insurance upon dwellings, stores, mills, all kinds of buildings, and upon personal property, and also to take risks on canal, river, lake and inland navigation. Authority was given the company to invest its funds in mortgages and government and municipal bonds. Dividends were to be paid whenever, in the judgment of the directors, the funds on hand justified it. The company was never organized, and never got beyond having this act passed.

Possibly with the idea that they could do business better than the first company (1868), Abel Horton, Samuel B. Fritts, Andrew W. A. Hennion, Thomas B. Stewart, Washington Harris, William F. Childs secured an act to be passed March 9, 1869, incorporating themselves and their associates, not exceeding 500, under the name of the Passaic Fire Association. They were given perpetual succession, as a body politic, with power to acquire, hold and purchase real estate. Their capital stock was to be \$50,000 or under, with which they were to purchase and maintain engines, engine houses, hose, buckets, ladders, etc., as should best protect the citizens of the (then) village of Passaic from injury by fire.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

### RAILROADS.

For nearly one hundred and fifty years Acquackanonk had been a peaceful, agricultural community, made up of farms, the finest in the State, and whose owners were considered rich men. They traveled little and if they were required to go a long way, say twenty-five miles, and couldn't spare the team from the farm, they took the stage, or if to New York, the boat from the Landing, which for all this period had been the greatest port in the northern part of the State for shipping and receiving freight by boats that also carried passengers.

But a change was coming. There came a time when railroads began to make their appearance and the attractiveness of the place as a freight centre led to the construction of a railroad—one of the first in the country—which forced the stage coach and boats to discontinue business.

The Paterson & Hudson River Railroad Company was organized by an act passed in 1831, under which the road was built, and was finished May 1, 1832, between Passaic and Paterson.

The 28th day of May, 1832, witnessed a notable event in the quiet village of Acquackanonk, or Paterson Landing, as it was then called, now our thriving city of Passaic. On that day there arrived by boat from Newark, two passenger cars that were to be used on the railroad between the Landing and the town of Paterson. A large number of people came from many miles around to see something of which they had heard, and in which they had taken a surprising interest.

The cars had been constructed for the Paterson & Hudson River Railroad Company by J. L. Young & Co., of Newark, and arrived at Passaic about two o'clock in the afternoon. From the boat, the cars were transferred to trucks, and conveyed to and placed in a barn which stood on the present northerly corner of River drive and Prospect street, where at that time there stood a house attached to which was a large shed wherein the new cars were stored. Patrick Hogan, an Irishman, kept a boarding house here to accommodate the laborers and mechanics on the railroad during the years of its construction. The house had been a sort of temperance hotel for several years prior thereto. These cars, while in Mr. Hogan's shed, were visited and admired by hundreds of people, who gazed with admiration and wonder upon the new vehicles. They were thirty feet long, and would seat forty persons each; through the center ran two seats back to back, so that persons would sit with their backs to each other.

At that time the railroad had been completed from Paterson to Passaic only, and a few days after the cars were received, trains began running over this part of the yard. The first trip was witnessed by a





great crowd of people, who had come so far away as Sussex county to witness the novel event. The coaches were painted red. Not only were the inside and platforms and steps crowded, but the roof had scores of men and youths packed to its utmost capacity. Eight "gentle horses with their careful drivers" propelled the car. The trip was a success, and the enterprise launched under the most auspicious circumstances. From that day to this the cars have continued to run with no interruption, excepting that caused by a strike—April 6 to 16, 1920.

It was considered a great thing to ride on cars in those days, even though horses, and not engines, were the locomotive power, and some enterprising Yankees of Newark did a profitable business by conveying parties by boat to Paterson by the way of the Morris canal, and from Paterson the parties would take a trip to Passaic. We copy the following from the "Newark Advertiser" of June 18th, 1832:

FOR PATERSON—The canal packet boat, *Maria Golden*, Capt. Brien, will leave for Paterson every day except Sunday till further notice. All those who wish to avail themselves of a trip on the railroad, now in operation between Paterson and Acquackanonk, will find this a good opportunity, as the boat will remain at Paterson long enough for that purpose, and return the same evening.

The following is from the "Newark Advertiser" of June 21st, 1832:

By an advertisement in the "Paterson Intelligencer," we learn that the company have now three cars running on the railroad, between Acquackanonk and Paterson, leaving each place six times a day; the fare is but 18c each way, and those who feel anxious to try this mode of travelling have now an easy and cheap opportunity of gratifying their curiosity. If all the cars are as well adapted for the ease and comfort of the occupants as one which we saw a day or two since from the manufactory of J. F. Young & Co. of this town, intended for this road, they have at least one requisite for a pleasant and agreeable ride.

The following is the advertisement referred to in the above notice:

A Railroad in practical operation within 10 miles of the City of New York. The Paterson and Hudson River Railroad is formed from the Town of Paterson to the Village of Acquackanonk, a distance of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles, and is now in actual and successful operation between those places. The company have placed upon the road three splendid and commodious cars, each of which will accommodate at least 30 passengers, and have supplied themselves with fleet and gentle horses, and careful drivers. With a view to suit the convenience of those persons who may wish to avail themselves of this rapid and delightful mode of traveling, the following hours have been fixed for leaving those places:

Paterson at	Acquackanonk at
7	8
10	10:30
12	12:45
3	3:30
4	5
4:30	6:30
5:45	7
Sundays	
6	7
7:30	8:30
9	9:30
12	1:30
5	6
6:30	7:30

Fare reduced to  $15\frac{1}{2}$  cents; children under 12 years half price. As the road is



within 10 miles of Hoboken and Jersey City and 9 of the Town of Newark, it will afford an easy and cheap opportunity of witnessing its advancement and will facilitate the communication between the Town of Paterson and the City of New York. The proprietors of stages have taken the railroad into their line. It is the wish of the company to be punctual in leaving the respective places at the hours aforesaid, and the proprietors of stages are requested to co-operate with them in this respect. Dated June 22, 1832.

Up to this time the Erie railroad had been constructed from the corner of Main and Grand streets, Paterson, to Pennington avenue, in this city. Work, however, was being pushed rapidly toward the construction of the road from this point to Jersey City. There was then no tunnel through Bergen Hill, and the road, as it approached that hill, turned to the right, at the point where the Susquehanna road now crosses the Erie, and continued southerly to the junction of the Pennsylvania railroad, whose tracks were used by the Erie to the ferry. This work was finished in 1833, and for some time horses were the only locomotive power. In 1834, however, a steam engine made its first appearance on the road. It had been imported from England, and was named "McNiell," and, of course, was a marvel. According to the time table, a person had his choice of traveling by horses or steam, which continued until 1836, when horse power was discontinued entirely. The following is the first of time tables between Paterson and New York:

#### PATERSON AND NEW YORK RAILROAD LINE.

Summer Arrangement for 1835.

Passengers will leave Paterson at:

6¼	o'clock	A. M.	by	Steam
10¼	"	"	"	"
2¼	"	P. M.	"	Horses
5½	"	"	"	Steam
6½	"	"	"	Horses

New York by Ferry:

5½	o'clock	A. M.	by	Horses
8	"	"	"	Steam
11½	"	"	"	"
3	o'clock	P. M.	by	Horses
6¼	"	"	"	Steam

On Sundays at:

Paterson	6½	o'clock	A. M.	by	Steam
	3½	"	P. M.	"	Horses
	5	"	"	"	Steam

New York	8	o'clock	A. M.	by	Steam
	9½	"	"	"	Horses
	6¼	"	P. M.	"	Steam

Office in Paterson, corner of Congress and Main Streets, opposite to the Congress House.

Office in New York, 75 Cortland Street.

Passengers with tickets will have a preference in seats.

Fare from Jersey City, 50 cents.

Transportation cars will ply three times a day each way, also.

As the ferry boats do not leave New York precisely at the above times, it is recommended to passengers to procure their tickets and to be at the Ferry a few minutes before the stated hours of departure.

Paterson, June 18, 1835.

PATRICK COUGHLIN, Agent in New York.

Winter Arrangement, 1836.

From New York at:

8½	A. M.
11	"
1¼	P. M.
4	"

From Paterson at:

7¼	A. M.
10¼	"
1	P. M.
3¼	"

Tickets for car A, with 3 apartments limited to 8 persons in each, six shillings;



other cars five shillings. All passengers from New York to Paterson will be required to procure tickets and to occupy seats in the cars according to the direction of their tickets, and it is recommended to passengers in New York to purchase their tickets and to be at the Ferry at least five minutes before the stated hour of departure.

PATRICK COUGHLIN, Ag't in New York.

It will be noticed that in one year the fare was raised from fifty cents to sixty-two and one-half cents.

The names of the stations were: Ackerman Lane (now Clifton), Huyler's Station (now Passaic), Passaic Bridge, Boiling Springs (now Rutherford), Secaucus, and Long Dock, terminal at Jersey City.

Previous to the coming of the railroad, a stage made trips daily from Paterson to Newark. After that it ran only from Passaic. The following is a copy of the notice of this old stage:

A coach will hereafter leave Paterson Landing every morning at half past 8 o'clock or as soon as the stage and cars arrive from Paterson. Fare 37½ cents to Newark. JOHN FINE, Prop.

This stage coach started from the railroad crossing at the present Pennington avenue, although its main station was the old tavern then known as the "Tap House," adjoining the old Reformed Church.

In the forties the road was double tracked, the laborers being Irishmen, whose most popular song, called "The Erie Song," was sung in later years by them, and was as follows:

In eighteen hundred and forty-one  
That's the year that I begun  
That's the year that I begun  
To work upon the railway.

In eighteen hundred and forty-two  
Says I to meself, this will never do,  
Says I to meself, this will never do,  
Working on the railway.

In eighteen hundred and forty-three,  
Dan O'Connell, he said to me  
Says Dan O'Connell, he says to me  
"I see you're working on the railway."

Dan O'Connell settled here about 1841. He and his children have died.

The coming of the railroad made a great change in the life of the old village. The sound of the horn announcing the coming of the stage coach, awaited by a group of men, in front of the tavern, where it stopped for dinner; the ringing of a large bell suspended between two high poles, to give notice of the sailing of the vessel carrying freight and passengers from the old landing, or big dock, in the presence of a crowd of youth and men, nearly all of them making tracks for the bar-room, before going home, was heard no more, while the many big wagons, which for more than a century had brought to this and other docks iron ores, lumber and timber from country to the north, ceased their trips, removing at one swoop a class of men, whose patronage





being thus lost to the taverns along the routes, resulted in putting some out of business.

The coming of the locomotive was so sudden as to upset the plans of many, including the Dundee Manufacturing Company, which had been planning navigation via the canal to Paterson for years, but upon which the railroad put quietus. (Today, however, after eighty years, there seem prospects of this planning being put into successful operation). In addition to these losses, merchants, blacksmiths and wheelwrights lost much of their trade, and the place became a deserted village, kept from innocuous desuetude by the village school, church and graveyard, the latter making it necessary for all, far and near, living or dead, to visit the old village.

The Erie established its first depot on the site of the present one at Prospect Street, then the hub of the village until 1847, when property owners below tried to have it removed to the northerly corner of Paulison avenue, where a triangle of land was given to the company, which still owns it. Jacob John Vreeland, however, who owned nearly all the land from the railroad eastward to and including Dundee, had made the company a present of a long strip of land needed by the railroad, upon condition that the depot be placed on the easterly side of the tracks adjoining on the north the road to the Point (Park Place, and this was done in 1848, the depot being an old freight car.

This portion of the present Erie railroad was on September 9, 1852, leased to the Union Railroad Company, which lease on March 14, 1853, was assigned to the Erie Railway Company, which operates the right of way still owned by the Paterson & Hudson River Railroad Company.

The first railroad on this continent was constructed in Hoboken, 1820, having a third rail, with notches on its surface to fit a driving wheel. This form of track was used on the first railroad between Paterson and Passaic.

The advantage of having a railroad was not only seen, but felt in the business world in and about Paterson, then the center of the iron industry, which received large quantities of iron ore and wood from Morris and Sussex counties. To be sure, the Morris canal was a common carrier, but because of the time taken for transportation, a railroad was suggested, and in 1846 a law was passed authorizing the construction of a railroad from Dover to and through Rockaway, Powerville, Boonton, Parsippany, Little Falls, Paterson and Acquackanonk, to connect with the road already built. But this contemplated road was never constructed because the Morris & Essex railroad extended its line to Rockaway, Dover and beyond, supplying the needs of a majority of the people of the two mentioned counties.

The main depot of the Erie was moved in 1862 from the freight car to a room in a building, now the store 578 Main avenue, where it remained until May 10, 1868, when a new building was erected at Wash-



ington place, where it remained until November 16, 1879, and there carted bodily to its present location, Lexington avenue. The removal was forced because the building stood in a public street, which was discovered on a map filed in the county clerk's office, and of which the company did not know.

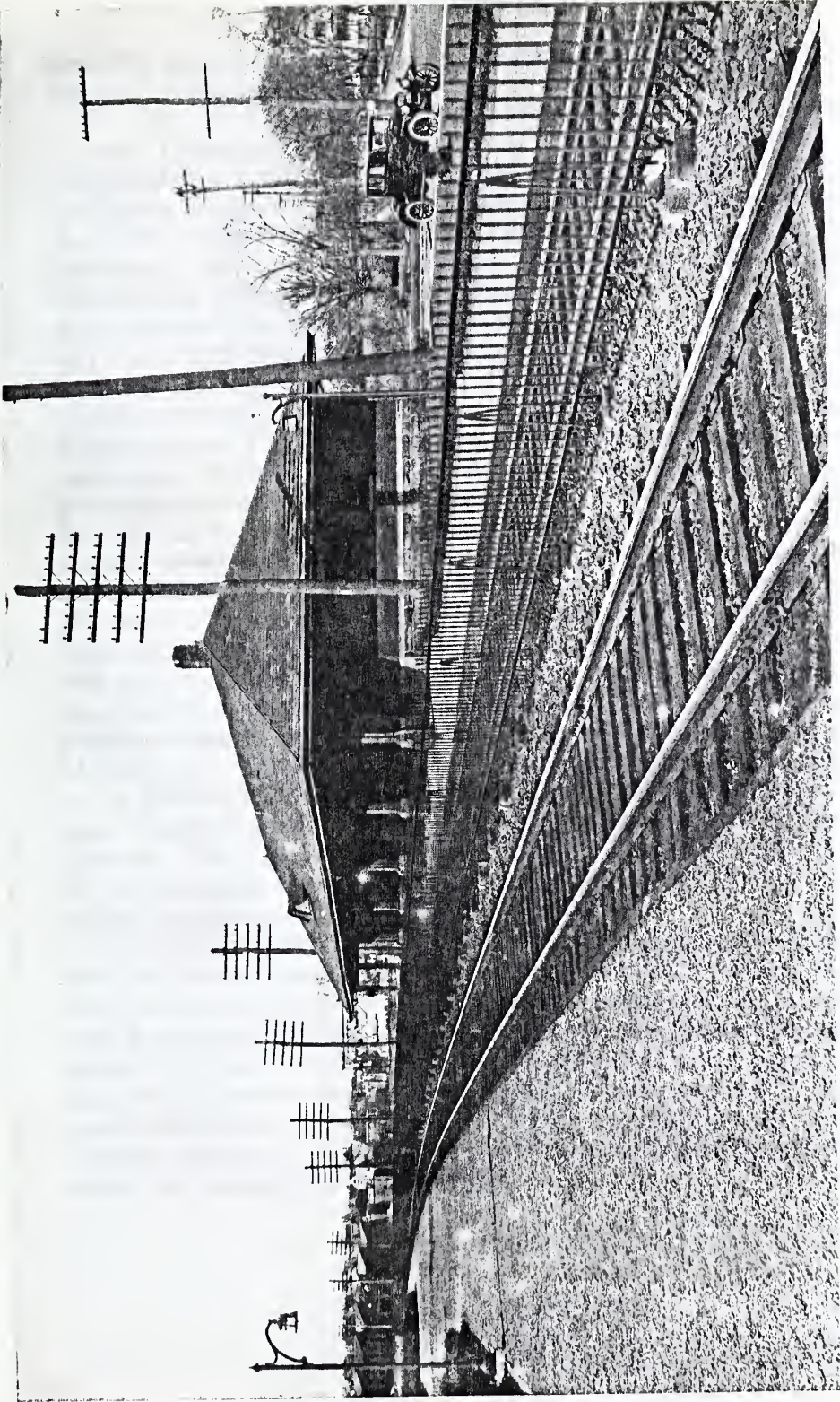
Previous to October, 1878, the Erie was the last railroad having a broad gauge track. In that month it began to use the narrower gauge to conform to other railroads.

While the Erie continued to furnish good passenger accommodation trains, its route through Passaic was too far from the Dundee section to serve directly and closely the mills, all freight to and from which was carted to and from freight cars, a long line of which stretched from Passaic to Jefferson street, along Main avenue. Each mill had teams for no other purpose, the expense of which continued to increase until it reached proportions too big to be ignored. It is doubtful, however, if this item of cartage would have led to a change in the system so soon, had not the public complained of the switch and insisted upon its removal.

This condition of business had been anticipated back in 1872 by the Dundee Water Power and Land Company and manufacturers, who conceived the plan of building a spur starting from the Erie railroad at Madison street, thence across the present Central avenue through the Herald building, across Lexington avenue, thence easterly parallel with and one hundred feet south of Monroe street to the easterly side of Columbia avenue, whence it curved southeasterly to the southeast corner of Madison street and Hope avenue, thence easterly to the Watson (Pantasote Mill) from which it continued easterly to the tow path of the canal, which was to be followed to the mills. All the necessary land was then acquired excepting that now of the Herald, and a strip from Lexington avenue to Elm street, owned by the late Henry P. Simmons, a most determined man in anything he decided upon. He refused to give, sell or lease his land, which came as a shock to all concerned. Part of the road, from Elm street to Vreeland avenue, had been constructed at considerable expense. That portion in the vicinity of Vreeland avenue required an embankment twelve feet high and one hundred feet long. John Wadson had erected a freight depot and platforms, as also had other mill owners. The railroad people started proceedings to condemn, which Simmons contested and won after years of litigation, before the culmination of which a new plan had been worked out and this spur plan abandoned. This led to the construction of the Bergen & Dundee railroad, which connected with the Bergen County (Short Cut) railroad at Garfield, and extended through Monroe street to and through Dundee Island to Dundee, where it connected with all the mills. The first rails for this railroad were laid July 27, 1881,







D., L. & W. RAILROAD STATION, PASSAIC



and ever since it has proved a great benefit, much better than the original spur could have done.

In 1885, Bird W. Spencer, Richard Morrell, David Campbell, Jr., Richard Outwater, Dr. Cornelius Van Riper and Thomas M. Moore organized the Equitable Land Company, and purchased most of the land lying between Monroe and Harrison streets, Vreeland Lake and the River. In order to facilitate the sale of this land for mill sites and residences, and to afford direct rail connection with the coal yard of Campbell & Morrell, corner of Passaic and First streets, these same men organized the Passaic & New York railroad in 1886, and constructed it, as it still remains. In addition to freight, passenger trains were operated to the Passaic Junction for three years. There were four trains each way as far as the Junction only, where connection was made with trains on the Susquehanna & Western railroad which, from the beginning, operated the Passaic & New York road, whose stock had been turned over to the Susquehanna. In 1898, when the Erie got control of the latter, passenger trains were discontinued and never resumed. Many were the actual fights between the employees of the Erie and Susquehanna caused by attempts to reach certain mills, to cross the canal, and to run a track along Vreeland Lake. These railroads were destined to play a greater part in the development of Passaic than was ever dreamed of in 1881-1885. They were the means of bringing the great Botany Worsted Mills to Passaic in 1889, and from that time Passaic began her remarkable growth, which is reflected in the growth of Clifton, Garfield and Wallington, all part of Greater Passaic.

In 1868-1870 the Boonton Branch of the Morris & Essex railroad was constructed, with passenger and freight stations at Bloomfield Avenue. The former was moved to Passaic avenue, where it now is. Of recent years, many mills have located beside it, in consequence of which a large population is growing there.

A familiar sight fifty years ago was the emigrant train that went West at 8 o'clock every night over the Erie railroad. Long trains they were, made up of sections of two or more, each containing ten or twelve cars, fairly packed with recent arrivals from the old country, who were going to settle in the far West. The Erie had the monopoly of this business for years, and to the onlooker, it appeared as if every emigrant traveled over the Erie, and motly crowds they were—fathers, mothers, children and luggage, crowded together until they reached the end of the journey, 2,000 miles away.





## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### FROM FARMS TO MILLS.

The coming of the railroad brought Acquackanonk to the attention of manufacturers, as well as real estate operators, both of whom planned great improvements to be made in the water power of the Passaic river. The former conceived the construction of a water power canal similar to that of the present one on Dundee, while the latter purchased (in 1836) all the land east of the Erie railroad between Park place and Madison street, and laid out streets and lots thereon for the erection of houses for the coming operatives in the mills to be erected. This vision led to the incorporation of the Dundee Manufacturing Company, the mother of Passaic's industries, whose history is worth recounting.

Preliminary to what follows, it might not be out of place to state that the question of constructing water power at Passaic had been seriously considered as long ago as 1792 when, after the incorporation of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures and Sites, through the efforts of Alexander Hamilton for the location of the Society's enterprises, were being advertised for and considered, a meeting was held here March 1, 1792, in the tavern then kept by Cornelius Stagg, situated on the west side of the present River drive (until 1917 Main avenue), opposite the Birch lumber yard (which in 1776 was known as the Blanchard tavern). This meeting was attended, according to the minutes, "by residents in the northern part of Essex county," and a committee of three was appointed to confer with the Society, which the committee did, and recommended the present city of Passaic as the site for the contemplated industrial city, because they had found it "practicable to convey the water from the Passaic falls to Acquackanonk Landing, where the natural lay of the land afforded hundreds of excellent mill sites." A map accompanying this recommendation shows a canal from the present Dundee Dam to the junction of the present Water street and Park place. The Passaic falls, however, presented the greatest inducements, and the Society chose Paterson as the place for the industrial city.

The first dam was built to furnish power to saw and grist mills erected upon a small race-way along the Bergen county shore for about two hundred feet below the dam, of which there came in time to be four. Subsequently, this race-way was lengthened, from time to time, until its total length was about 1,250 feet.

The first dam of which we have positive knowledge was erected by virtue of an act of the legislature, passed February 20, 1828, entitled, "An Act to authorize John S. Van Winkle and Brant Van Blarcom,





their heirs and assigns, to erect a dam across Passaic River." The preamble of this act recites:

Whereas, it has been represented to the legislature of this state, by the petition of John S. Van Winkle and Brant Van Blarcom and others, that they are the owners and occupants of certain premises on which grist and saw mills are now erected on the Passaic River, about one mile above the tide water; that by the erection of a dam eight feet high at the site where the old dam is erected, or at some point between that and the island in said river immediately above the same, a water power might be created which may be made to be a valuable acquisition to that part of the counties of Bergen and Essex which are in its immediate vicinity, by erecting works upon an extensive scale, should the aid of the legislature be obtained in promotion of their views; and, as an improvement of this kind is called for by the landholders on both sides of the said river, which does now already belong to the said John S. Van Winkle and Brant Van Blarcom, therefore, Be it enacted," &c.

Section 1 authorizes Van Winkle and Van Blarcom, their heirs or assigns, to build and maintain a dam on the old site as set forth in the preamble, and to divert the waters of said river sufficiently to accommodate mills and other water works.

Section 2 provides that for the purpose of improving navigation of the river from tide waters to Paterson, the legislature should have power to authorize the construction of locks in said dam to be erected at the expense of the parties constructing the same.

Navigation rights therefore were reserved for further legislation. This was done to frustrate any attempt, of which there was rumor, of construction of a canal on the Bergen shore from the head of tide water.

In pursuance of the authority conferred by this act, Van Winkle and Van Blarcom proceeded to erect a dam, partly of wood and partly of stone, eight feet high, upon the site of the old dam, and rebuilt and lengthened the raceway, which was a small affair, constructed of timber, being six feet wide and four feet high, upon which four or five saw and grist mills were erected. At that time, extensive forests of large timber covered the country for miles adjacent to the dam. This timber was cut down and hauled to the mills, which for many years were utilized in cutting up the timber for commercial uses.

No sooner were the improvements made, however, than those men sold out to Jacob Van Winkle by deeds dated April 13, 1832, for \$10,000, not only the lands and race-way, but "also all the waters of said river, water courses, mills, dams and the right to extend dams across the river, provided that no new dam should be erected on the Essex (now Passaic) county side of the river more than sixty feet below the (then) present dam." The further he proceeded, the more he saw the possibilities of conserved water power at this point, which possessed every natural requisite for a dam, viz.: the abrupt turning of the course of the river a short distance above the dam, thus breaking the violent rush of floods before reaching the dam; the larger lake or basin thus formed



capable of storing eleven million square feet of water would furnish unlimited water for power and navigation.

In order to obtain the necessary funds, it was decided to form a company, whereupon and on March 15, 1832, an act was passed whereby Jacob M. Ryerson, Peter M. Ryerson, Russell Stebbins, A. R. Thompson, William Chase and their associated, were incorporated by the name of "The Dundee Manufacturing Company," who were authorized to raise \$150,000 in shares of \$50 each, by opening books—not in the neighborhood of the dam, Passaic or Paterson, but at Pompton, fifteen miles away. By deed dated May 1, 1833, Jacob Van Winkle conveyed all his holdings to the new company.

The Ryersons succeeded their father in the hoop, pole, barrel staves and iron industries, which had been conducted profitably for many years, and which had been established at Pompton by the Ryersons before the Revolution. Nearly the entire product had been, and then still was, carted to Acquackanonk Landing (now Passaic), where it was loaded upon boats and taken to all quarters of the globe. The Ryersons saw an opportunity to continue the business in the vicinity of the Dundee dam where timber was plenty and water power abundant, and arrangements were made to buy out Van Winkle and Van Blarcom, which was subsequently done.

Under this act, the company was authorized to construct works for the manufacture of iron, cotton, wool, and other articles, to buy, rent and hold such lands and water power in the county of Bergen as might be necessary. Within a year, it was determined to abandon all action on the Bergen and transfer operations to Essex (now Passaic) county, where it was believed were greater opportunities for development and better facilities afforded by the Erie railroad, then nearing completion, and for this purpose the charter was amended by an act passed February 18, 1833, which authorized the company "to buy, rent, take, hold and otherwise seize and become possessed of and hold, lands, tenements and water power in the County of Essex."

Under its new acquired power, the company constructed a canal, but which was little more than a raceway, on the Essex side of the river, extending over the route of the present canal, southerly to about President street, upon which, near the southerly end, two grist mills were erected.

In a short time, all the standing timber had been exhausted, leaving the saw mills idle, and there was so little grain as to require only one grist mill. It then became evident that other industries were needed to make the enterprise successful and efforts were made to secure others without success, and then, too, it was soon seen that the plan or scheme was too small to expect future growth, and that navigation of the river, which stopped short a mile or so away, made the question of handling freight a very serious one.





About this time, Edward J. C. Atterbury, a wealthy business man of Trenton, had occasion to visit frequently at Paterson the young woman who was to be his wife, and learned of the attempted enterprise at Slaughter Dam, as the neighborhood was known, and as this dam of which we are speaking, was called. Upon investigating the matter, Mr. Atterbury called to his assistance Colonel J. W. Allen, chief engineer of the then Camden and Amboy, now the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, who after careful inspection, recommended that the entire base of operations be shifted from Bergen to Passaic county, and a new and larger dam constructed of such height as to form a large reservoir to fill a canal two miles long, eighty feet wide, and ten feet deep. This canal could furnish not only power to scores of mills, but would furnish navigation, thereby giving Paterson something that she could obtain in no other way. Under instructions, Colonel Allen made surveys and furnished maps, plans and drawings, all which were approved by the company. Many years were spent in working out these new plans, which were sufficiently elaborate to require authority from the legislature to carry out. At this period, the use of cotton manufactured goods was pushing to the front, inducing many to engage in that industry. In the business of cotton bleaching, Passaic has the credit of establishing the first works in the State. James Shepherd, in 1813, was the pioneer in the business of cotton bleaching by chemicals and beetling and finishing the same in European style, for the New York market, in which he continued most successfully for a quarter century.

Mr. Atterbury had visited Shepherd, from whom he learned of the stupendous possibilities of this business, provided cotton could be delivered in large quantities and at reasonable expense. Paterson had been spinning cotton since 1793. Not until 1836 did she engage in the cotton bleaching business, which increased rapidly.

Thus it was that Mr. Atterbury and his associates determined to build a canal which would not only supply water power for the many cotton mills to be erected thereon, but would give navigation facilities to these and a dozen Paterson mills, whereby boats, loaded with cotton, say, at Charleston, S. C., could sail up to this place, where the cotton could be transferred to smaller boats and carried to the Paterson mills.

To facilitate, therefore, the carrying out of the plans, the legislature on February 12, 1858, passed a supplement to the act of 1832, of which Section 1 enacts: That it shall be lawful for the Dundee Manufacturing Company to improve the navigation of the river Passaic between the mouth of Weasel brook, and some convenient point within the corporate limits of the City of Paterson, by canal or canals, or by creating a slack water navigation as may, from time to time, be deemed necessary or useful, and to construct, make, erect and execute one or more canals or dams as may be necessary to effect the navigation of said river as aforesaid; which canal or canals shall be at least seventy-



five feet wide at the water line, and not to exceed one hundred and fifty feet in width, including embankments, and the water therein to be at least four feet deep.

Section 2 provides: That it shall be lawful for said company to construct towing paths and all locks, works, devices, wharves, toll-houses and offices, necessary for the use of said canal or dam and for the improvement of the navigation of said river as aforesaid. Sections 3 and 4 provide the method of acquiring lands.

Section 5 provides for the erection of all necessary bridges across the canal where any public road crosses the same.

Section 6 authorizes said company to demand such sums of money for tolls and the transportation of persons and every species of property on said canal and slack water navigation as might be thought proper; provided that not more than four cents per mile per ton toll should be charged for transportation of freight, nor more than five cents per mile for the carrying of each passenger on said canal and river; provided also that not more than one-half of said toll should be charged farmers residing along the line of said improvement for transporting fertilizers.

Section 8 provides that the said canal and river, and the works thereon erected for the transportation of persons and freight should be esteemed a public highway, free for the transportation of passengers and freight, on payment of the established tolls, and said company, their grantees and lessees might use the waters thereof at their mills or works for manufacturing purposes; provided the navigation of said canal or river should not be thereby interfered with.

At the date of the passage of this supplemental act, all real estate which the company had acquired immediately after the passage of the original act, which included all land between the present Parker avenue, the river, Dundee dam, southerly to President street, upon which canal had been dug by the Dundee Manufacturing Company, was owned by the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, to whom the same, together with the Dundee dam, and the land and race-way on the Bergen shore had been conveyed by the Dundee Manufacturing Company, May 22, 1850, in the confidence that the Society, by reason of experience, would be able to make a success of the enterprise. Among the Society's board of directors were experts on water power and manufactures, but even they, after eight years of trial, gave it up, and by deed dated April 15, 1858, the property was re-conveyed to the Dundee Manufacturing Company, two months after the passage of the act, when the company was in new hands, the stock being controlled no more by local men, but by men from Trenton and Philadelphia, who having made artificial water power and navigation special study, felt that they could make the enterprise here a success. Their attention had been called





to the matter by Mr. Atterbury, as above stated, and who became the president of the company.

The preliminary report of the engineer sets forth that he had surveyed that part of Passaic river, extending from the lower dam at Paterson, to the mouth of Weasel brook in the village of Passaic, and found the fall to be forty feet, which he recommended should be divided into two parts, viz.: eighteen feet at the upper end and twenty-two feet next to tide. Two plans were considered. One was to build a dam at the site where the Zabriskie dam formerly stood—about half a mile above the Weasel bridge, Paterson, where the company had the right to build a dam six feet high, which would give a head and fall to high water mark of 22 feet. This dam would cause the water to flow back one mile, creating a reservoir of about fifty acres. By reference to the map annexed to the report, it will be seen that the proposed canal from the Dundee dam to the mouth of Weasel brook is two and one-fourth miles, and follows the old canal as originally constructed, from which point it is to run southerly to the river. The map also shows that at a point 1,700 feet from the terminus a branch was located, which, dropping twenty-nine feet by a combined lock to the valley of the Weasel brook, is continued to the river.

The second plan contemplated was to erect a dam on the site of the old Dundee dam eight feet higher than the old one which was fourteen feet. By this dam, a reservoir would be formed covering 250 acres, containing nearly eleven million square feet of water. He advises the second plan, and the construction of a canal sixty feet wide at the bottom, eighty-seven feet at the top, with water at least seven feet deep. Besides the water power, the canal was to be used for transporting freight to Paterson. The engineer speaks "of local advantages possessed by Passaic, unsurpassed, perhaps not equalled by any in the country, both natural and artificial. Situate upon the New York and Erie railroad, at a distance of only eleven miles from New York, and being upon a navigable river, it possesses the great advantage of communication by water with that metropolis. The cost of transportation from Passaic to New York would not exceed \$1.00 per ton, fully fifty per cent. less than at Paterson." The engineer closes his report by stating that "the company owns three hundred and forty acres of land in the immediate vicinity, a portion of which had already been laid out in building lots, well located for a town, besides many handsome sites for country residences."

The engineer's map, dated June 9, 1858, shows not only the dam, river, canal and locks, but also the village of Passaic, upon which appear two churches, two taverns, one school, four stores, and a blacksmith shop, with the Erie depot at the present Park place, then the only road to the Dundee section. Our Main avenue is Sycamore street, and Prospect is Liberty street.





The president, in his report to the stockholders, bearing date June 15, 1858, says that:

You will observe that the charter of our company is without any limitation as to time. The powers and privileges granted are most liberal and ample for all the purposes of the company, enabling them to use the entire fall of 40 feet between Paterson and the tide water of the Passaic river for power for manufacturing purposes, and for canal and slack water navigation. This latter privilege must in time be very valuable, as vessels loaded with lumber, brick, lime and coal will be able to bring these and other bulky articles from distant points without transshipment by railroad. The canal will make navigation for vessels to the point where the City of Paterson first touches the river, about two miles from the mills of that city, by a good road, and having at least 50 feet of water with a head and fall of 22 feet to lease, which, at a low estimate, will produce \$30,000 a year. The real estate of the company will in time more than reimburse the whole outlay. We have 2,000 building lots which, with the streets, will absorb 150 acres at \$150 a lot, produce \$300,000, the whole outlay, and still leave a large quantity of land unappropriated. Mill sites will be arranged so that each one may have a dock on tide water of the river and another on the head race. They will be ten miles from Hoboken by a superior turnpike and plank road, 11 miles from Jersey City by the Erie Railroad, over which 11 trains run daily, 5 miles from Paterson by both turnpike and railroad, 8 miles from Newark, through which the river runs to New York harbor. The flourishing Village of Passaic, formerly Acquackanonk Landing, adjoins the property, has two churches, and many neat and handsome residences. It will thus be seen that the company will have a property unrivaled by any other water power in its location, being in the midst of a thickly settled district only 12 miles from New York and having, by water, communication with it, and from which they may expect an income from water rents of \$30,000 a year, besides the tolls arising from the use of the navigation and from real estate, more than will repay the whole cost of the work, principal and interest. He says further: After the property is thus developed, it will be in the power of the company to proceed with the rest of their privileges and improve the remaining 18 feet of fall, thereby bringing navigation nearer to the center of Paterson. And he closes by saying: From a careful review of your engineer's report, and personal inspection by the directors of its many natural advantages, it will be obvious to all that it is unsurpassed by any water power in this country.

Both reports were approved; the second, or Dundee dam plan, adopted and the directors authorized to proceed with an undertaking that was to result in the wonderful development to Passaic and vicinity. The first work done was that of building a dam. The dam of Van Blaricum and Van Winkle, of 1828, was only eight feet high, and extended about one-half the width of the river. In 1833, the Dundee company added six feet to the height, extended it across the river, and dug the first canal, about half a mile long. In times of freshets, many serious breaks occurred in the dam. Because of its weakness and inability to withstand the pressure of the water in the great reservoir above it, the old dam was entirely removed and a new dam, one of the most substantial and graceful in outlines, was erected twenty-two feet high, and four hundred and fifty feet long. The laying of the corner-stone, September 12, 1858, was a great day here, when the Governor of our State, with a company of State troops, and the Passaic Light Guards, attended



and assisted in the ceremonies, witnessed by thousands of interested spectators. The raising of the dam necessarily raised the depth of the water in the old canal to ten feet. The new canal was not so deep as the old one, the old one being twelve feet deep from the dam to about the present President street, and the new canal eight feet from that point to the lock. Immediately after the completion of the dam, the extension of the canal was begun and completed in 1860, and water was put in in 1861. There were two locks located about 200 feet south of Jefferson street, consisting of two chambers, protected by three double gates. Everything was complete by the summer of 1861, and the company was ready for business. Locks had been constructed and were in practical operation, and in every other respect they and the canal were ready for navigation. On July 4, 1861, the first and only boat passed through the locks and canal. But there seems to have been no demand for navigation, and the company waited in vain for boats to pass through the canal carrying freight, passengers, or both, to Paterson or vice versa. Then, too, there was no demand for mill sites, and after waiting a reasonable length of time, the company, in order to encourage the establishment of industries along the canal, erected on what is now Passaic street, and about one hundred and fifty feet west from Canal street, a foundry for the manufacture of anvils, calling it the "Star Foundry." This did not prove a success, and after a year's operation was abandoned. Breaks in the canal occurred, and there was trouble with the lower lock, necessitating the taking out of the middle gates, and strengthening the foundation. These gates, however, were never replaced, but allowed to rot to pieces on the bank, and in time, were stolen and used for kindling wood. These locks, by the way, were twenty-five feet wide, and each chamber one hundred and ten feet long. There were, in addition, countless expenses for repairs, which, added to the interest on the bonded indebtedness, with no income, placed the company in an embarrassing position. As a matter of fact, the company had no money, not even enough to pay bills for repairs. The result was that the company was sued, judgments obtained, and the property sold at sheriff's sale, purchased by Edward J. C. Atterbury, as trustee for the bondholders, and subsequently, the company was reorganized, and its name changed, by an act of the legislature, to that of the Dundee Water Power and Land Company." Even after the reorganization, there was very little improvement in the affairs of the company, which struggled along under a great new bonded indebtedness, with very little income. Such income as they had was received from five mills which had located along the canal, being those of Jacob L. Basch, Reid & Barry, Ammidown Brothers, the New York Steam Engine Works, and Waterhouse Brothers. the rents from which, in addition to money received from the sale of a few lots, enabled the company to amble along until about 1885, when the sudden starting of the growth of our city





caused the sale of a great many lots at fair prices, which prices increased as time went on, so that by May, 1892, the company was able to pay off its last bonded indebtedness, and all other liabilities and was left with a surplus, which has continued to the present time.

• Ever since the supplement to the charter in 1858, there has been more or less agitation and demand for navigation, which was made by the owners of land between the dam and Paterson, to which the company always turned a deaf ear on the ground that it would not pay. This led to a suit being started in our Supreme Court in 1881, on the application of farmers above the dam, for mandamus compelling the Dundee company to open navigation. In these proceedings, much testimony was taken, which showed, among other things, that at that date the dam and canals were in good condition, ready for navigation, but the only thing in the way was lack of locks.

It appearing upon the testimony of Mr. Strange, a surveyor, that the site of the old locks had been filled in, or nearly so, although at that time the remains of the old lock might be seen upon the ground where the middle gates, or what remained of them, still lay upon the bank, but which were being gradually carted away for kindling wood. He further stated that the outlet from the locks leading to the lower race-way was filled in and that the lower tail-race had become likewise more or less filled in with refuse, and dirt from the surrounding shores. In answer to a question as to what was necessary to make the river navigable, he stated that "if the tail-race were cleaned out, increasing the depth for boats drawing not more than seven and one-half feet of water; the outlet from the locks excavated; the locks put in good condition; and the piling which supported the tow path restored, it would then be possible for boats to navigate from Passaic river, at the foot of Park place, to the City of Paterson." He testified further that the receiving lock at the dam was in good condition, as the same was constructed of stone, but that the lower locks, having been constructed of green timber, were not permanent.

Other witnesses, mostly farmers, testified that if canal navigation were afforded, they could obtain fertilizers a little cheaper than by railroad. But the total saving would not exceed \$300 a year. For this reason the application to open navigation was refused. A remarkable circumstance developed in this litigation, viz.: that not one manufacturer, here or at Paterson, joined in these proceedings.

The only other attempt to compel the company to open navigation was in September, 1903, when the company was indicted for maintaining a nuisance. The company sought to have the indictment quashed, but without success. On the trial, however, the company was acquitted.

In the course of time, Paterson became jealous of Passaic's wonderful growth, which was materially augmented by the advantages of river commerce, and clamored for the opening of the canal to naviga-



tion, which resulted in the passage of a law on March 26, 1912, providing for the appointment of a commission of five men to investigate the matter, and report thereon. The commissioners so appointed made a report setting forth the advantages of navigation from Passaic to Paterson and recommending that the State use all its power to make navigation complete. Shortly afterwards a new survey of the river and report were made by the War Department, which reported unfavorably to the improvement, unless the Dundee Company's claim to have the first right to the river waters at Dundee Dam, even against the Federal government, should be declared invalid.

For the purpose of ascertaining just what those rights were, the legislature by joint resolution of March 26, 1917, referred the matter to the Board of Commerce and Navigation. At a hearing before said board, the company expressed willingness to co-operate in making the river navigable and to contribute such sum as might be equitable; and to surrender its rights to collect tolls, upon condition that navigation be effected by the State or Federal government.

Reports (simply of progress) were made by the board in 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921. On March 4, 1921, the board was directed to present its report together with the agreement with the company at the beginning of the next legislature (1922).



## CHAPTER XXIX.

### PASSAIC.

This word is supposed to be an Indian word applied by the Lenape tribe to the river, about the year A. D. 900, and still in use. It followed Aquackanonk river, which had been so called by the nation of Indians who had inhabited this state for centuries, until driven out by another nation as set forth under Acquackanonk in this work, to which the reader is referred, and also to the chapter under Indians. The name was first applied to the river, then to the county, in 1837, and then to the village, in 1866, 1869, 1871 and to the city 1873-4-5.

The preservation of the Indian "appellations," not language, is exemplified in their river names, and indicates the speech of the earliest races on this continent. These names, it is well to remember contrary to the general belief, heretofore entertained, were not given by the Indians. The river names were applied by one dominant race, who ruled the length and breadth of our land—one people, with a language common to them all. These names were given during the pre-historic period of the world, and this is proven by the fact that geographical names seldom perish. Let one's mind roam over the world and apply this statement of fact to the whole world, when the truth of it will be made apparent.

As the rivers served many purposes, including that of natural boundaries between places, States and nations, the preservation of their names became a necessity. It is a well-known fact that all the words of the Aborigines conveyed some truth, and had a meaning distinctly applicable to the object named. While many of our modern names are mere honorary or fanciful titles, creatures of a whimsical mind, without meaning, these Aborigines had a significance for every name, which meant something.

The great difficulty, however, that is to be contended with in the analysis of those river names is the fact that they are handed down to us, not as the Redman would have given them to us; had his language been preserved in writing in his own native tongue; but they are given to us, after many years of oral tradition, kept perhaps only in the memories of men. Then, again, the translations come to us spelled in German, French, Spanish and other languages, far from the correct spelling, perhaps.

One great difficulty is met with at the start in the spelling. In order to investigate the meaning of any word we should know the correct spelling, or have an idea of its approximate spelling, giving the root of the word as a prefix, if possible. From the prefixes in the various early spellings it is impossible to tell which is right.





As is well known, the name was vicariously transmitted to the first white settlers by the Indians, not in writing, but orally, and reduced to writing and reproduced, spelled phonetically, or in other words, spelled as the same sounded to the scribe. Among unlettered people, as the Indians were, there was no school to visualize spelling, and people learned it by sound.

In tribes there were clans, all speaking the same language, to be sure, but each having peculiarities of speech, or idioms, in their pronunciation of certain words, which exists today in civilized countries. Another impediment was the difficulty of selecting the right letter in English to convey the Indian sound, which was often difficult and at times impossible. The hundred and more ways of spelling Acquackanonk affords a good illustration, although in this word the root, "aqua,"—water—appears in nearly all, thereby giving the cue.

The name was first applied to the river (Passaic) itself. The following are spellings appearing in documents and public records arranged in the order in which they appear: Pachsaick, Pishaix, Pashawack, P'saic, Pissak, Pesayk, Pessac, Passaick and Passaic. From these it is difficult to tell what the root is.

Until it is found what the word is, it is impossible to ascertain a meaning other than that given by the Rev. John G. E. Heckewelder, the greatest of missionaries among the Indians from 1762 to 1777, and who served as United States Peace Commissioner to the Indians, and who made a study of the Indian language, publishing several books on Indian history, language and customs, who interpreted the meaning "Valley," which is accepted as the true one. In 1837, Passaic county was created out of Essex county. The city of Passaic for nearly two centuries was known: at first as *Acquackanonk*, then as *Acquackanonk Landing*, *Paterson Landing*, *Huyler's Station* and *Quacnick*. All were suddenly dropped and Passaic adopted by and through the efforts of the late Alfred Speer, who at a public meeting held in the old Blanchard tavern, February 15, 1854, proposed the change, and secured signatures to a petition to the Postmaster General to that effect. Mr. Speer went to that officer, who made an order April 25, 1854, changing the name to Passaic. Upon his return Mr. Speer had two signs painted "Passaic," in big letters, which one night he placed one in front of the Erie railway's ticket office, now No. 576, and the other on the postoffice, then in a grocery at the present No. 591 Main avenue.

Passaic was first recognized as a municipal entity in 1866, when authority was conferred upon its first board of commissioners to lay sidewalks upon certain country roads within her limits.

The name is unusual and is said to be the only one in the world. This is something of which to be proud.



## CHAPTER XXX.

### PASSAIC IN 1859.

The original picture of Passaic as it appeared to the editor for the first time, July 16, 1859, presented an ideal village, comprised within a circle of half a mile from the old dock, or Landing, at the county bridge, which was the shipping port and the centre of business activities. Here in a long two-storied frame building were a grocery, harness, shoe and butcher stores, adjoining which on the north was a general store that was confronted with a well patronized tavern, a visit to which was paid by every man coming into the village, among them teamsters, farmers, tradesmen, visitors, travellers and others. The original tavern had stood from Colonial days, on the land now designated as No. 147 River drive, but was removed across the road about 1830, to the commodious residence formerly of Peter Jackson, where business was conducted, raffles held, blooded horses bought and sold, (whose good and bad points were shown in running and trotting up and down the old road, which although laid out in 1707, remained an unimproved dirt road) and the centre for holiday sports, consisting of sack races, catching a much-greased pig by the tail, climbing a greased pole to get a watch at its top, and lots of other exhibitions of skill.

After 1870 business began to grow less and before long ceased to pay and the tavern was closed. The building remains with its deserted bar-room on its southerly end, which in bygone days looked out upon one of the greatest business marts of the State. But now—

"The friendly host, whose social hand  
Accosted strangers at the door  
Has left, at length, his wonted stand  
And greets the weary guest no more."

Adjoining the general store was a lumber yard, where business of that kind had been established in Colonial days by one John Low, through the centre of which ran a driveway leading to the bridge. Before, during and after the Revolution, opposite this driveway, still stood until 1877, another reminder of Colonial days—a stone dwelling built in 1713, in which Washington had spent the afternoon and night of November 21, 1776, then used as a tavern and known as the *Tap House on the Hill*. Adjoining this had been a ball room, but, later, was converted into a public meeting place known as Speer's hall, and used by four of our churches in the sixties, for worship. Next to the hall was the old Dutch Reformed church which had occupied this site, as its building does today since perhaps 1693.

The old and famous District School was located in one corner of the graveyard, about 150 feet north of the church, where it had stood co-eval with that edifice in point of time. But of this ancient Academy—





"All is ruined, all is done,  
 The Tutor to the shades is gone  
 And all his pupils led astray,  
 Have each found out a different way:  
 Some are in chains of wedlock bound,  
 Some are hanged and some are drowned,  
 Some are advanced to posts and places,  
 And some in pulpits screw their faces.  
 Some at the bar a living gain,  
 Perplexed at what they should explain.  
 To soldiers turned, a bolder band,  
 Repel invaders of the land.  
 Some to the arts of Physic bred,  
 Despatch their patients to the dead.  
 Some plough the land, and some the sea,  
 And some are slaves and some are free.  
 Some court the great and some the Muse,  
 And some subsist by mending shoes,  
 While others—but so vast the throng,  
 The cobblers shall conclude my song.

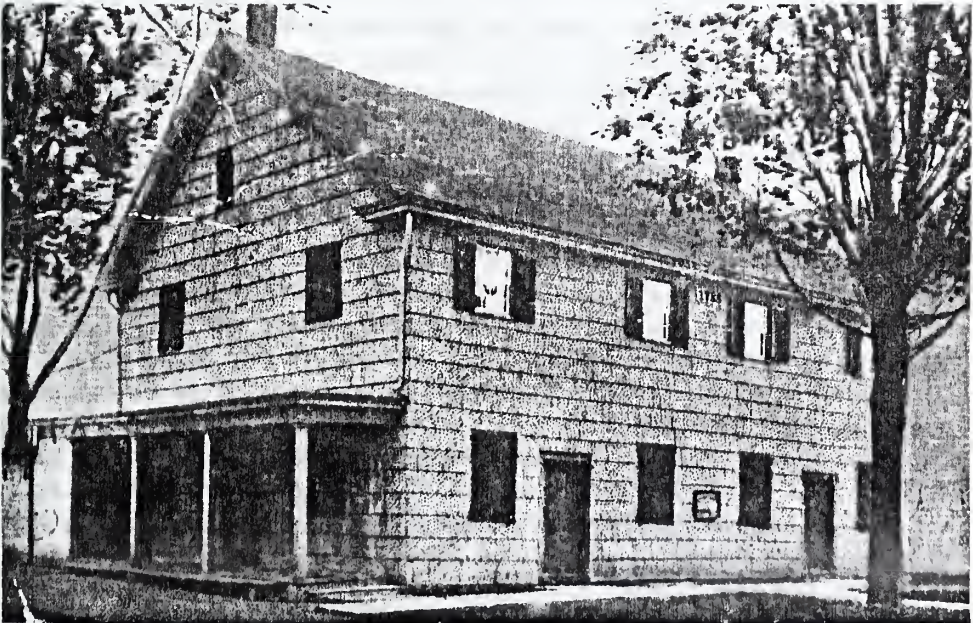
(FRENEAU, Poet of the Revolution.)

Shoemaker John I. Speer lived alongside of the school, at the corner of New street, where he had a cobbler's shop. Opposite the old school was another tavern which in the early sixties was called the *McFarland House*, at the southwest corner of which, on the edge of the road, was the village pump, supplying water to at least one-half of the village's inhabitants. This tavern had been one of the stations for stages and where mail was left, having been a tavern stand for a century. The buildings were razed in 1915. Next to this stood, as stands today, a small frame dwelling, adjoining which to the north was a frame building along the front second story of which ran a balcony. On the first floor were two stores; one a German beer saloon conducted by John Lindemer, the other a candy store conducted by his wife. The schoolmaster and family, in 1860, occupied part of the second floor. On the opposite side of the road, at the apex of New street, was a blacksmith shop, next to a low-down whiskey shop of the worst kind. About three hundred feet north of this was the former parsonage of the church, No. 72 River drive. It was razed in July, 1921, by the city. Nearly opposite was Edsal's grocery. The building still stands facing Prospect street with a cluster of buildings well known as *Sebastopol*, in which were a wagon painter's shop, a tin-smithy, and one of the worst saloons in the community, which had been located there to catch the Irishmen working on the new Dundee canals and dam, who, to reach Dundee, traversed a path which, starting at the corner of Yereance's wheelwright shop, then on the site of No. 57 River drive, led directly across the property known as *Speer's Chateau*, to the foot of Park place, where it came out on the road to Dundee. With the exception of a small frame building, now part of the Chateau cluster of buildings, there was no building on either side of the Drive until River street (now Park place) was reached. On the westerly side of Main avenue, after crossing the Erie railroad to River street, were four houses.





MAIN AVENUE, NORTH OF PARK PLACE, 1922  
(ERIE STATION WAS AT LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER)



ERIE RAILWAY STATION, 1815-1869





Main avenue on the easterly side of the Erie railroad, was known as *Cow Path*, which it resembled. The only building in this vicinity was an old two-storied frame one, which stood on the site of what is now Nos. 576 and 578 Main avenue, which was surrounded by vacant land, used for the raising of potatoes. The Erie ticket office was in No. 578, while an old out-worn freight car, placed beside the building, was the freight house. A long board laid across the path led from the ticket office to the railroad, along whose eastbound and westbound tracks, platforms with a railing on the outer side, extended from River street (Park place), crossing northerly one hundred feet. In front of the present Peoples bank was a switch track long enough to hold three freight cars, which was laid on the Plank road property.

To a stranger, upon alighting from the train, there was presented scarcely a sign of a town. He could see no stores, and although there was one on the site of the present Nos. 591 Main avenue, the cars on the switch hid it from view; along the *Cow path* stretched a poor, badly broken rail fence; rubbish was scattered about the station. No friendly planking to render the crossing of the tracks safe and sure was in existence. This ticket office was a room about 12 feet square, in one corner of which, facing the entrance, was the ticket office proper, consisting of a space about five feet square protected by board partitions with a ticket window about one foot wide and sixteen inches high, on the right side near the front corner. A wooden settee with a straight back, composed of small rungs, one-half inch in diameter set upright, and with a curved arm-rest at each end, occupied a position along the wall; a small bracket lamp was screwed to the boards above the ticket window. A water pail stood on a corner shelf, and a broom in another corner completed the furnishings. There was no name of the station to be seen anywhere, and except for occasional passengers at train time this place was deserted, not even boys lounged about.

Main avenue proper was little more than a muddy or dusty way, full of ruts and holes, hedged on each side by ditches from two to four feet deep and from six to ten feet wide. A glance down River street revealed another Main avenue, only worse, as floods had washed large holes in it. No sidewalk was to be seen. Opposite the station was one lone house set about twenty feet back from the road and in the midst of many trees. Along the gutter was a row of button ball trees, between which and a picket fence, ran a path so far as River street where it ended. The traveller might look in vain for a tavern or other public place of entertainment. Below River street, on Main avenue, just above the railroad crossing, was to be seen a long, white pole reaching from one side of the road to the other. This was an old toll-gate that had been in use as such at Crooks avenue and was now used here to protect travellers going in a southerly direction and was then being operated by "Billy" Franklin, flagman for the Erie, whose shanty was





where the present tower-house is located on the opposite side of the railroad, where, instead of a gate was a sign, "Look Out For the Locomotive," in letters one foot high, painted in black letters on a board painted white, reaching clear across at the top of white posts twenty-five feet above the roadway.

Along the *Cow Path*, from the Erie depot to *Lovelane*, as Passaic street was then called, were two dwellings and a slaughter house—the latter at the corner of the lane which then was used by a local butcher. The entrance to the lane was guarded by the bars of a rail fence. North of *Lovelane* were six houses. The foundation for the seventh on the lot now known as No. 652 was being laid. In front of these houses was a continuous picket fence. There was a pretty door-yard before each house, which stood fifteen feet from the fence where were flowers and shrubs of various kinds—the hollyhock predominating—while over the porticos, honeysuckle and roses were trained. In the rear of each house was a well cultivated garden. Washington place was not in existence until 1863. Back of these houses, stretching to the river, were fields of grass. The one through which Washington place is laid was known as the *daisy* field. River street was known as the *Road to the Point*. Dundee had for nearly two hundred years been known as the *Point*. Passing down that road one was forced to stop and admire a place resembling an old England estate, reaching from near the present State street to the tail race, and from Love lane to the river. Perched upon an elevation about two hundred feet from the river, of which an unobstructed view was presented for long distances in either direction, was the mansion of John B. Pell, retired sea captain, who selected the site because of its view of the river. From the road a driveway led under and between trees of most beautiful foliage, winding its way up to the mansion and thence to the stables and barns in which were kept the horses, ponies, a donkey for the children, wagons and coaches. A small herd of cows, sheep and a few lambs and goats were scattered over the beautiful, well kept lawns and in the grove of selected trees to the north and west of the mansion house, in which were placed inviting rustic benches and chairs, some inclosed with beautiful rose bushes and shrubs, others under arbors of trailing vines and fragrant blossoms. Between the road and river was a stately row of weeping willow trees which in the year spoken of (1859) had attained the girth of about eighteen inches, making a pretty appearance. Among them was located a boat house, into which a boat could be rowed. On both sides of the road were well-kept lawns, in which scattered about and along the road were choice flowers and shrubbery. The house presented attraction by its stately appearance, set off by a large trailing arbutus which well nigh covered the front; clusters of roses depended gracefully from doorways and window frames, while scattered about in the door-yard were exotic plants and shrubs from lands across the sea, all arranged by Mrs.



Pell, who was pationately fond of floriculture, which she inherited from her father, Dr. John Bancker Ayerigg. This old manor had been laid out many years before by ex-Senator Daniel Holsman, who was also the owner of all the land bounded by old River street on the north, old Main avenue on the west down to Prospect street, and the river on the east, of which he made a map showing streets and lots. The Pell property continued in that family until 1885.

After passing the Pell estate the road crossed the Weasel brook, where it flowed into the river, passed the first stone house erected in Passaic (then Essex) county, that of Jacob John Vreeland, which stood where is now the canal, near the corner of First and South streets. There were no canals then. From here the road continued easterly on the river bank, passing through a swing gate in the centre of the present Second street near which stood a small frame building owned by John A. Ackerman. The road continued as far as the present Fifth street where a long lane, lined with cherry trees, led to the mansion house of Ackerman which stood on the river bank between Sixth and Seventh streets. From the head of the cherry lane, as it was called, the road turned northerly to the river about Essex street, as now laid. Near this point was, even then, an old frame building known as the *Vreeland Point-House*. What then remained of this house was part of the Indian trading post erected about 1678 or 9, which stood in the rear of the lot at the present north corner of Passaic and Wall streets.

Leaving the *Cow Path* side of the Erie a view of the westerly side showed on Main avenue, north of the old postoffice, located in the grocery and dry goods store of William L. Andruss, a dwelling house adjoining. Standing partly in Passaic avenue and partly on the present southwest corner lot was the dwelling which had been erected by William W. Colfax, a relative of Vice-President of the United States Colfax. About one hundred feet north was the residence and barns of Dr. Garret Terhune who owned from Passaic avenue to Academy street. North of that street was the old True Reformed Dutch church—a fine example of Dutch church architecture. Next to that was a small house in one front window of which were displayed an old watch and a clock, as the sign of a watch and clockmaker. Between this house and the present Hobart building were three very similar little houses. The one where the National bank now stands was owned by an old ex-sea captain, Abraham Van Riper, who was noted for his vehement blasphemous language used in all conversations. The site of the Hobart building was vacant and used as a garden by the occupants of a boarding house which then stood where the Hughes building now stands, at the apex of Main avenue and Prospect street.

Beginning down at the present corner of River drive and Prospect street, one could see, as today, the buildings in the block to the railroad, on the lower side, excepting a brick building and the Andruss cottage





erected since. On the opposite side was a Dutch stone house at the corner of River drive, and the same building, No. 12 Prospect street, seen today, adjoining which along the railroad where now stands a brick structure, was a one-story frame butcher shop. After crossing the railroad there were to be seen the same houses between the present Main avenue (of which this part did not exist then, a house occupying the site) and Pennington avenue (not then in existence) as exist today with the exception of the brick cobbler shop on the corner of Pennington avenue. A bakery stood in the centre of that avenue. The house at the northeast corner of Pennington avenue and Prospect street was there then. North of this, near Park place, which was the beginning of the Road to the Point, was a house, one of whose front windows displayed a coffin as a sign of an undertaker.

On the opposite side of the street, which was called the *Back road*, was a house still standing where the fashionable youth, male and female, had clothing made to measure. On the same side of the road, just beyond the present Park place, was a Young Ladies' Academy, founded in 1804. With the exception of the present brick dwelling at the northeast corner of Park place, there was not another building on the Back road until the present Bloomfield avenue was reached, with the exception of Dr. John M. Howe's mansion and park-like grounds near the corner of the present Grove terrace. At the present southwest corner of Bloomfield avenue and Prospect street stood a large Dutch, stone house and barns, occupied by the widow of a former pastor of the True Reformed Dutch church, whose graveyard was opposite on the other side of the road.

Midway in the block, between Bloomfield and Howe avenues, at the rear end of the present postoffice building, was an old Dutch stone house which originally (1690) had been the home of a Cornelius Van Houten. North of the present Municipal building, on Main avenue, was the lone house of Judge Simmons, corner of Henry street. Leaving that avenue and proceeding up the old Weasel road, now Lexington avenue, two Dutch stone houses were to be seen: one where the present Erie depot is located and another on the opposite side of the road, north of which, and near Madison street, was a frame cottage, opposite to which was a two-storied frame, unpainted, building that had been used as a tannery, distillery, and for other purposes. At the corner of Monroe street was another Dutch farmhouse of stone. The next building was the stone house still standing at the northwest corner of Jackson street and Lexington avenue. Two houses, one a stone near the present corner of Autumn street, and a frame building still standing near President street, completes the buildings on the latter avenue.

There was a Dutch farmhouse at the corner of the present Monroe and Lydia streets, which was the first home of the editor in Passaic in 1859, when the previous occupant, John J. E. Vreeland, moved into a



new frame house he had erected for himself near the corner of the president Madison street and Hope avenue. A vacant mill owned by Vreeland stood on a portion of the present Pantasote property in line with Madison street extended.

These were practically all the buildings north of the Landing. South of that were the same houses along River drive as exist today, with the addition of the Methodist church, its minister's house, or parsonage, and another dwelling, which stood side by side facing the drive about 200 feet north of Ayerigg avenue. Dr. Scudder's stone house at the north corner of the drive and Westervelt place was destroyed by fire in the Spring of 1860. Van Houten's store at the north corner of the avenue of that name disappeared about the same year (1860). Ex-sheriff of New York Westervelt resided at the southwest corner of Westervelt place and the drive. Two houses facing the drive midway between that place and Van Houten avenue are of recent erection. Masonic Temple, on the present Temple place, but then standing alone in the midst of fields of grass, was of recent erection. Although massive in construction it did not possess one feature of comfort or convenience so common today. Its big rooms with their high ceilings were heated by stoves. One day, an ordinarily cold day in winter, a caller found Dr. and Mrs. Ayerigg, the owners, each in a separate room sitting so near as was safe, to a wood stove, he with overcoat on and a thick blanket wrapped about his legs, and the chair upon which he sat, while a fur cap adorned his head. Mrs. Ayerigg was likewise protected from the cold. The Doctor said this was the means adopted by the whole family to keep warm. Pride in a mansion robbed them of the comforts of a smaller house which they had formerly occupied.

In the matter of roads and streets there were Main avenue, then the Paterson and New York Plank Road; Lexington avenue, then the Weasel Road; Bloomfield avenue and Grove terrace, then one thoroughfare known as Mineral Spring road; Prospect street, then the Back road; Brook avenue, then Turtle Hill road; Van Houten avenue, then Sip's lane; Park place, then the Road to the Point; Grove terrace, then part of the Mineral Spring road; Paulison avenue from Bloomfield avenue out to Athenia, then Peach Orchard road; Madison street, east of Lexington avenue, then Vreeland lane; Passaic street from Main avenue to the Tail race canal, then Love lane.

This, then, was the physical outline of Passaic, in 1859, long before known as Acquackanonk and for (then) the past ten years, at least, generally known, and even designated on the Erie time tables Huyler's station after the name of its station agent.

The year 1860 witnessed the laying of the foundation for a future city. Until that time Passaic had been a small hamlet, with a snail's pace and growth, but in this year she was to witness that which was to work wonders in the old town, viz.: the completion of the Dundee dam,





the digging of the canals, and the construction of a great water-power force to operate factories and mills, all which were completed on time, and little by little new life and business began to be felt. The old town was becoming known to the outside world, and strangers came, looked and settled, adding to the number of inhabitants. The new comers saw the Main street threaded by the railroad and lined sparsely with ancient houses of frame, the Back road on the present curvature of Prospect street; the Weasel road bearing off toward Paterson, and the Bloomfield road, intimating the direction of a distant town. A lane led to Dundee, and over the county bridge they could wend their way to Lodi and Hackensack.

To be sure the lines had been drawn for Gregory, Howe, Passaic and Pennington avenues, and there were perhaps a dozen houses scattered about, while in Dundee there were four small factories and as many houses. These were all the improvements, while scattered about on all sides lay the well-tilled farms of the early settlers.

It was traditionally difficult for these old settlers to yield their acres notwithstanding destiny had decreed that they should crumble into building lots and avenues.

The opening of streets in the early days depended on the caprice of the land-owner, and not until there was municipal authority could it be done systematically. Sidewalks were the first theme of civic agitation and one who remembers the capacity of Jersey soil for the composition of mud will appreciate the urgency of the subject. One of the greatest blessings to be thankful for in those early days was blue stone sidewalks. Trees were planted abundantly, thank God, and hence the rich foliage and shade of today. The first introduction of gas and water were feeble precursors of plentiful supplies for the refreshment of homes and illumination of streets. Sewers came none too soon, while the smooth, hard roadways make life's journeys easy. Parks came slowly, because their need was hard to discern, while all about were beautiful lawns in the city and hay fields all around. But they came.

Faint reminiscences of the township government when one went far into the rustic region of the Great Notch to vote linger in the minds of the old settler. Two years of village government recall many amusing squabbles, not the least, the occasion when women turned out to vote at a local election, but were prevented. The procurement of a city charter in 1873 seemed a piece of excessive ambition, but it was one of those cases when men "build better than they know." Had it not been done that year, it might have waited long. The stretch from 1873 to 1880 was a march through the desert. Slightly does the young man of the present hour appreciate the prostration which followed the panic of October, 1873—the worst this country ever experienced—mills slammed shut their doors, houses and tenements were vacant month after month, values of real estate collapsed and vanished. Skilled me-





chanics, who had been getting war wages of from \$5 to \$10 a day, begged for a job at \$1 or even fifty cents a day.

Money was the trouble. The city had started on the basis of the currency in use at the close of the Civil war. Dollars were in greenbacks and the chasm between the greenback dollar and the gold dollar was broad and yawning. When it was required to close up by resumption of specie payments, it crushed every speculative project like an egg-shell. There was a hard stage for an incipient suburban town. But it was a school to those who stood by.

Passaic was fortunate in having careful, competent men at the helm who weathered the storm. All parts of the civic machinery took shape and order. The firemen perfected their organization. The police force began with one man as the human race did at a much earlier date, and the "bluecoats" were so few as to be lonesome for many a day. The city council, like those of Clifton and Garfield, exhibited a boisterousness that showed them novices, with much to learn before being able to act like gentlemen in their discussions. Elections were more exciting, because the city was but a tyro in municipal affairs and like the school boy, learning, rather than as a mature man doing his strong work. But the editor would be remiss if he neglected to say that many earnest and public-spirited men have done hard work in the offices of our city; those who received no remuneration working just as hard, perhaps harder, and accomplished without assistance as much at least, if not more, than those who were paid. We may have been ungrateful and even censorious of these unpaid servants at the time, but when the dust arising from the conflict has blown away and we look back upon the honest endeavors of honest men, we are heartily willing to accord the recognition of their services and the need of generous praise. A large debt is still owing to the well-balanced conservatism and energy of our honorable line of charter mayors who were more distinctively mayors and with greater powers than the present so-called mayor, under Commission government, who, as such, is not chosen by voters nor accountable to them, but to the other Commissioners who selected him to act as such.



## CHAPTER XXXI.

### THE CIVIL WAR—THE SPANISH WAR.

When the Civil War came on in 1861, scarcely a man dreamed of the magnitude it would reach, the time it would endure or the cost it would entail. It was thought of in the smallest terms by all, from the laboring man to President Lincoln, who on April 15th, issued a call for 75,000 militia out of the various State organizations, to serve for three months, unless sooner discharged. The quota for this State was 3,120 men, or four regiments of 780 men each.

Governor Olden received this requisition on the 17th, and at once issued a proclamation calling for the required number of men. This community was aroused, and all was excitement. Everybody was interested and expressed their determination of supporting the President. Recruiting posts were established, and public meetings were held in that once famous Speer's Hall, which stood on the westerly side of the present River drive, which was attached to the former Tap House or Tavern used by Washington and Lord Sterling as headquarters during the Revolution.

Many men offered their services from this vicinity, but before they could be mustered into service, the New Jersey Brigade, consisting of four regiments of 780 men each, made up of men from Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon and Essex counties, was completed, and within a few days after the President's call, started for Washington. On May 3, 1861, the President called for more men, of which New Jersey's quota was 3,500, which were soon mustered into the First Brigade composed of eight regiments, in neither of which, however, was there any man from this vicinity. Under the President's call of July 24, 1861, the Second Brigade was mustered in, numbering nearly two full companies from Passaic county, viz.: Company G, of the Fifth New Jersey Volunteers, and Company G of the Seventh Regiment. At the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, May 2, 1862, over five hundred of these men were killed.

So anxious were Jersey men to enter the service that many, being rejected here, went to New York city, and were placed in the Daniel E. Sickles's brigade, which he was then raising, called the Excelsior Brigade, which was made up of men from several States. In its first regiment alone were three companies of men wholly from New Jersey. The two companies recruited in this county were in the First Regiment, and were assigned to Hooker's division. In the battle above referred to, this regiment had 800 killed.

It is difficult to compile a list of those from this city who served in the Civil War, because many of them enlisted elsewhere. So far as possible the writer, after consulting the roster in the office of the War





Department, Washington, and other available records, is able to present the following names of her sons who enlisted in the war, among them:

In Company F, Second Regiment—Post, Sylvester J.; Terhune, William.; Van Allen, Peter; Wilson, William.

In Company I, Second New Jersey Volunteers—Brower, Cornelius; Crawford, Robert W.; Cundell, Charles H.; Higbie, Edward; Slater, John J.; Zabriskie, John.

The Ninth Regiment, recruited as a rifle regiment, was made up of expert riflemen from all parts of the State, of whom about fifty were of Passaic county. In January, 1862, during a severe storm off Cape Hatteras, the row boat having on board the officers of this regiment capsized, resulting in the drowning of several of the officers, among them, Colonel Joseph W. Allen, civil engineer, who planned the Dundee Dam, canals, locks, mills and raceways of the Dundee Manufacturing Company. The "Song of the Ninth New Jersey Regiment" became very popular:

Sons of Jersey, swell the song,  
Let your notes be loud and long.  
Make the Union army strong—  
On to Victory!  
Roanoke has felt our power,  
Newburne, too, can tell the hour,  
When the rebels had to cower,  
Neath our infantry.

The above was the first of four verses.

Volunteers becoming exhausted, resort was had to drafting. In the first draft, among the eighty-eight who were drawn were: Charles Ayerigg, Gilbert D. Bogart, William Franklin, William S. Anderson, Henry Blake, Thomas G. Ayerigg, John McDevitt, William H. Jackson, Nicholas Fredericks, Abraham Folley, George Kenter, John A. Post, Jr., William Rhodes, Peter A. Speer, John T. Vreeland, Marshall B. Smith, John C. Merselis, Peter Terhune, Richard A. Westervelt, Lewis W. Bartlett, Christian Gebhardt, Peter Van Iderstine, Jasper H. Yereance, Philip H. Van Riper, Henry Crawford, J. Thomas Van Orden, William Beattie, Ralph Riker, David Riker.

Pursuant to the call of President Lincoln for 10,478 men to serve nine months, the Twenty-fifth New Jersey Volunteer Regiment was made up and completed in September, 1862, of which five companies were made up in Passaic county. The late Andrew Derrom was colonel; E. J. Ayres, of Paterson, lieutenant-colonel; Judge Inglis, quartermaster; Dominic Robinson, chaplain, and Charles F. Field, sergeant-major. This regiment took part in the battles of Fredericksburg, during which time nine were killed, fifty-eight wounded and eighteen missing. It did good service in blocking Longstreet's attempt to capture Norfolk and Portsmouth. Having completed its term of nine months, it was mustered out of service June 20, 1863.

Among the members of the companies of this regiment, then living in this locality, were: David Ackerman, William Bogart, Jacob Z.



Brevoort, Charles Denholm (of Denholm Brothers), Abraham Ennis (a relative of the Richard Ennis of Delawanna, who was hanged in the Revolution), Leonard Faulkner, Richard Oakes, George M. Post, Louis A. Piaget, William Ryan, William Riker, John, Edward and Josiah Spear, Henry and John Snyder, David Tuers, George and Philip H. Van Riper. Others enlisted elsewhere.

Joseph Scott and Charles Scott, brothers of the editor, enlisted—the former going to Newark, October 3, 1861, and joining Company F, Eighth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, in answer to call for more men, after the defeat of the Union forces at the second battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. Judging by the letters of Joseph to his father, who resided here in Passaic, there was a pretty general belief that the war would end almost before it began. In his letter headed: "Camp Johnson, Lower Potomac, Md., Feb. 23, 1862," after speaking of the many days of heavy rainfall, resulting in mud knee deep all around, he says: "According to reports, I expect we will cross the river (Potomac) so soon as weather is favorable, and roads fit to march on. The rebel battery opposite us has been silent for the past week." In his letter of January 23, he says: "The rebel battery opposite us at Freestone Point has been throwing shells at us several times in the last two weeks. They have thrown some clear over our camp, sixty-four pounders; the most of them fell short of the mark. They have done no harm yet and their troops have moved back from the river, and out of our sight." He continues: "I think they have smelled the rat. It is reported that they are moving toward Richmond. There are several gunboats lying there ready to cover us while we are crossing the river. If our army keeps on gaining victories, I think we shall soon be home. The boys are all anxious for a fight before they come home. The strike in Virginia will end the war."

It is needless, perhaps, to add that the boys got their fill of fighting "before they returned home," at least Joseph did, as he served in many battles until discharged in April, 1865, being several times wounded. Charley enlisted at Hudson (now Jersey City), August 21, 1862, in Company B, Twenty-first Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, under the call for nine months men. He was not so fortunate as his brother, being killed in the slaughter of Union men who were literally mowed down in the battle of Fredericksburgh in the following December.

But there were not a few living hereabouts who were, strange to say, in sympathy with the South, and who were known as *Secessionists*, whose leader was Dominie John Berdan, the minister of the True Reformed Dutch Church, which for many years stood at the present No. 641 Main avenue. Many heads of families, members of this church, were in sympathy with him, including those of Bogart, Cadmus, Lloyd, Post, Stager, Terhune, Van Bussum and Van Riper, Van Roden and others.





One Sunday in 1862, Dominie Berdan preached a lengthy sermon upon the Rebellion and Slavery, both in his opinion being right, and he urged his hearers to do all they could to support the South in its laudable purpose, in which he believed God would bring victory to the South. The Dominie believed strongly in the institution of slavery, and on this particular Sunday said, as noted by one who was at the service:

Slavery was right because the Bible sanctioned it. No one can read either the old Bible or the New Testament without being convinced that a condition of servitude by a certain class of people coexisted with the progress of the world, and that the black man never would have been made black if he had not been destined to serve the white man. This is evident from the fact that those held in bondage by the Egyptians were the ancestors of the negroes of today and never even asked to be free. Now a war is being fought to set them free. But who is responsible for this? Not your slaves, nor mine, who are satisfied with their present condition of good homes, good care, plenty to eat and enough to wear, and who, if manumission were offered them today, would thrust it aside. And no wonder. They now have no cares, no responsibilities, no anything. Their masters—you and I—assume all of these. They are our own business, to continue as long, and in the manner, we please, and no man or government shall say that we shall not have slaves. To protect these rights, it shall be our purpose to fight until we win. Stand for your rights.

There were several of his congregation who did not agree with the Dominie, men of strong convictions, who had the respect and confidence of the community. Among them was ex-Judge Cleveland, who after the service cautioned the minister to be more careful of what he said from the pulpit, which was not the place for partisan politics. This led to argument and caused the people to think, and, in the course of three years, few of the members agreed with their pastor, and when it was found impossible to convince him of the errors of his ways, they gradually left him and returned to the Old First Church, from which they or their fathers had seceded since 1825. This exodus and deaths so depleted the ranks of the Seceder Church that by 1890 it had a membership of five, and an average attendance of three, including the minister and sexton.

April 10, 1865, was ushered in with rain, which continued all day. It was Spring election day for Acquackanonk and Paterson. Passaic, which was included in the former, numbered less than five hundred inhabitants—a mere hamlet, whose business places were confined to the lower end of River drive, clustering about the old Reformed Church, district school and tavern, where all business had centered for over one-hundred and fifty years.

The Civil War had been waged incessantly by General Grant, who gave Lee no rest. Richmond had fallen, and Grant had sent a letter to Lee suggesting surrender, and he had replied requesting Grant to name a time and place to talk over matters. This occurred April 8th, and was known to the people generally, who figured that negotiations would take at least several days.





The polling place for Passaic was Piaget's tavern at the Notch (still there), to which voters were conveyed in the farm wagon of Adrian Van Blarcom. On the morning in question, this wagon stood in front of Ryerson's Hotel (still standing on River drive, just north of Gregory avenue), waiting only to be filled before starting. The Erie depot was in one small room of a two-storied frame dwelling on the easterly side of Main avenue, now known as No. 578. A boardwalk, perhaps twenty inches wide, laid in the mud, led across the avenue, then only twelve feet wide, to a frame platform one hundred feet long and six feet wide, protected by a railing. Mr. Aaron Kenter (uncle of Mr. George T. Kenter, cashier of Passaic National Bank), was ticket agent and telegraph operator for the New York and Erie line. At that period, Passaic had at least five daily commuters to New York, among them, William James Boggs, Dr. John M. Howe, and Simeon Pye, who, as usual, left on the 7:51 train (this train has continued to this day). When New York was reached, they learned of Lee's surrender. Of course, all were pleased and made happy, continuing their way rejoicing. But Mr. Pye was too overjoyed to engage in business and, voting a holiday for himself, returned home. He arrived on the 10:10 train, and to his surprise learned that the good news had not reached Passaic, whereupon Mr. Kenter telegraphed New York, receiving immediate answer confirming the report. In those days there were few passengers at this station, and Mr. Kenter looked about for some one going down into the village by whom he might send the news. But there was none. Coming from the village, however, was a boy on horseback, whom Mr. Kenter hailed, told the news, and requested to carry it down to Ryerson's tavern. In a jiffy the boy (Jasper Yereance) was off like a flash, and in no time reached the tavern, making known the good news to the crowd there assembled. Very few if any men remained in the wagon, climbing out to join in the celebration. As a result of the spreading of the news the crowd became larger. The late Alfred Speer and Dr. Richard A. Terhune took a leading part in the ceremonies. A meeting was at once held in the former drill room of the then defunct Passaic Life Guard, on the second floor of what is now 153 River drive. Mr. Speer was appointed marshal, and arranged for a parade that afternoon, even though the rain fell thick and fast. The next day, being clear, flags were displayed from houses and stores, and the celebration was re-enacted. Passaic at that time had no newspaper, and the only one that reported news of this neighborhood was the "Paterson Daily Register," from a copy of which, now in the possession of the writer, under the date of April 10, 1865, he makes quotations set forth below. The entire account of the surrender takes up three columns on the second page of the size of the "Daily News." At the head of this first column is the words "Finis" in block type one-fourth inch high. Below this is a flag, occupying two inches square. Head-lines are in type of the size of an ordinary type-



writer machine. The rest is in ordinary newspaper type. There is nothing startling in the appearance of the stupendous announcement, which today would be announced in type four times the size, placed at the head of the first page. The following are from that paper:

Surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee and entire army of Northern Virginia. The end of the great rebellion. Two soldiers council. A great captain performs a humane action. Full details of the capitulation. Correspondence between the two generals. A mutual desire to stop the effusion of blood and advance the cause of peace.

Then follows the official correspondence, the first one being:

Headquarters Armies of the United States.

April 9, 4:30 P. M.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia this afternoon upon the terms proposed by myself. The accompanying additional correspondence will show the conditions fully.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.

War Department, Washington, D. C.

9:30 P. M., April 9.

Lieutenant-General Grant:

Thanks be to Almighty God for the great victory with which he has this day crowned you, and the gallant armies under your command. The thanks of this department and of the government and of the people of the United States—their reverence and honor have been deserved—will be rendered to you and the brave and gallant officers and soldiers of your army for all time.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

At 10 o'clock P. M. the same day, the Secretary of War gave out an order that a salute of two hundred guns be fired at headquarters of every army and department post and arsenal in the United States and at West Point.

This is followed by the correspondence between Generals Grant and Lee, the first dated April 7, 1865, from Grant to Lee, asking for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. General Lee, on same day, acknowledged receipt and asked for the terms of surrender, to which Grant made reply, suggesting complete surrender, and a time and place to arrange details. Lee replied that it was not in his mind to surrender. Several more letters were exchanged until April 9, when General Lee offered unconditional surrender to Grant, which was accepted.

Although Lee had surrendered, the Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, who still commanded four armies, had not, and continued active for nineteen days more. In its issue of April 29, 1865, the "Daily Register" announces the surrender of Johnston to General Sherman of all his armies. The only army east of the Mississippi that had not surrendered was that of Dick Taylor, who remained in the field until Jeff Davis should succeed in getting beyond the Mississippi.

"The Register" editor was a strong Democrat, and until his death was continually criticising Lincoln, disagreeing with his plans and find-





ing fault with everything he did. At this late day, when distance lends enchantment to our view of the Martyr President, it appears cruel and malicious to read that Lincoln was responsible for the war and the loss of so many lives.

Vice-President Johnson had appointed May 26, 1865, as a day of humiliation and prayer, but when he realized that it was Good Friday, he changed it to June 1st. Here on that day services were held in the Reformed, Episcopal and Methodist churches.

After the war there was formed an organization since known as the Grand Army of the Republic, the members of which are the men who belonged to the army of the Civil War, on the Union side. Various Posts are scattered over the country, and given the names respectively of some famous military man. The one in Passaic is that of George G. Meade Post, Grand Army of the Republic, which is in good condition in spite of the depletion by death in the number of members, of which a record is kept.

Charles Brady, of 7 Aspen street, seventy-seven years old, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the last members of the crew of the famous U. S. S. Monitor, which wrecked the Merrimac, died at his home November 10, 1921. He had been a resident of this city for fifty-eight years. Mr. Brady was born in Brooklyn, and he spent his boyhood days there, when it was little more than a village. In October, 1863, he enlisted in the navy and was assigned to the "Monitor." During his service on the "Monitor" his crew was awarded prizes on two occasions for the capture of rebel cotton barges. On October 27, 1864, he was discharged from the navy, and went back to his birthplace in Brooklyn and later came to this city where he lived in quiet life until the end came.

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

With the commencement of the Spanish-American War in April, 1898, the members of Company D, Second Regiment of New Jersey, National Guard, offered their services and made preparations to go to the front, and were ready to, and did leave Passaic on May 2, less than a week after receiving notice to prepare, and went to Jacksonville, Florida. While there awaiting orders, the war ended, resulting in their return to Passaic, where they were mustered out November 17, 1898. The officers then were: Captain, Hamilton M. Ross, Jr.; First Lieutenant, James T. Barker; Second Lieutenant, John H. Doremus, succeeded by Adam H. Hubschmitt.

Company D was organized as Company B, Fourth Regiment, December 11, 1879. The reorganization of the National Guard in 1892 made it Company D of the Second Regiment, and in 1899 it was again changed to Company A, First Regiment.

There is at present an organization called Veterans of the Spanish-American War, composed of those who participated in the events of 1898.



## CHAPTER XXXII.

### THE POSTOFFICE.

The establishment of a postoffice at this place is indebted to Main avenue (part of which was on February 20, 1917, changed to River drive) which was laid out in 1806, as, and formed a portion of the Paterson and Hamburg turnpike, reaching from our Gregory avenue, near the river, to Hamburg, Sussex county, and came about in this way:

The turnpike having been built and finished, its promoters, including Abraham (known as "Brom") Ackerman, and 'Squire (Garret) Van Houten, were anxious to have a mail route established over the turnpike. Among the villages through which it ran, there was not a postoffice. Hamburg, at the other end of the line had had one since 1795, the nearest one to Newark, in a northerly direction, to which letters for residents of intermediate places often were sent, causing great inconvenience and loss of time in going to Hamburg for mail. Then, too, the communities were growing, among the new comers in the last quarter century being many Redemptioners and their numerous progeny, all which argued for better mail facilities. With this thought in mind these turnpike men held a meeting in the home of "Squire Van Houten (which stood, remarkable as it may seem, upon the site of the rear end of the present postoffice building on Prospect street), and in that old stone house which had belonged to Van Houten's grandfather, prepared the following petition:

To Gideon Granger, Esquire, Postmaster-General of the United States, at the city of Washington:

The subscribers, inhabitants of the villages of Hamburg, Stockholm, Pompton, Paterson and Acquackanonk, in New Jersey, beg leave to represent that a Turnpike road has lately been completed from Hamburg to New York city, by which distance has been shortened and facilities improved.

That the citizens residing in and near the villages aforesaid beg leave to solicit the Postmaster-General to favor them with the convenience of having a postoffice established at the villages aforesaid, of which they have heretofore been deprived, and consequently has subjected them to very great inconvenience, expense and delay in their conduct of business with the city;

That the settlements along the route have become prosperous and the business transacted even under their present privation of public conveyance, is such, that, in their opinion, it would add considerable to the revenues of the postal department.

They beg to add that it is contemplated running a stage, shortly, from Hamburg to New York city, which, they take the liberty to suggest, under the idea that a contract may possibly, from that circumstance, be made with more economy for the conveyance of the mail, and that the distance between the offices solicited for, may be known we have *enjoined* a schedule of the places and distances from each other, and from Hamburg to New York city. Dated January 6, 1810.

At this date such mail as was not convenient for delivery otherwise,





was left at Ackerman's store, then at the present No. 147 River drive, where it was continued to be left until a postmaster was appointed which took nearly four years.

When it became known that the Postmaster-General had replied to this petition, stating that he would be glad to receive names of men who would make good postmasters, he got them. The candidates for this place—then Acquackanonk Landing—were Abraham Ackerman, Peter Jackson, James I. Post, James C. Stagg, and Cornelius Vreeland. Each had a general store, all of them located in the lower end of the town excepting Stagg, who was on the site of the present Hughes building, corner Main avenue and Prospect street. This led to a fight which became general, spreading among the friends of the candidates, who talked and worked for their man. Ackerman and Jackson were in the same lines of business, each had a store here and operated freight boats to New York. Jackson's store was at the present No. 140 River drive. In addition, he had a country store and iron mines at Pompton, and as a consequence, had a large acquaintance and exerted a power in the community not possessed by Ackerman. Mr. Jackson was progressive, while Ackerman was slow and very conservative. Jackson won.

Previous to 1814, all mail matter for Passaic, Paterson, Hackensack and the surrounding country, was received and delivered at the Newark postoffice. To facilitate matters, however, the drivers of the mail wagons from Newark to those places, kindly received and delivered without charge, all mail matter upon or contiguous to their routes, and, where it happened that it was not convenient to make delivery the mail was left at the principal store in the neighborhood. At Acquackanonk Landing, as Passaic was then called, mail was left at the store at or near the present county bridge. About the time of the Revolution, this store was kept by Robert Drummond, an Englishman, who settled here a little previous thereto, and carried on a successful business. He married into the Vreeland family, thereby increasing his wealth, and added to his standing in the community. Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, however, he sacrificed all, by organizing a company of soldiers in defence of the king, and at the head of the company went to war. He sold out his store to John Low, who continued it until his death in 1785. As a consequence of his acts, all the real estate of Drummond was confiscated and sold. He fled to England and died at Chelsea. Robert Drummond, therefore, may be considered as having been the first postmaster of this place. In the cemetery of the old Reformed church, are the tombstones of two of his children, viz.: Mary, who died October 6, 1761, aged five months and nine days, and Sarah, who died October 29, 1772, aged four years, nine months and four days.

John Low came from Belleville, where he had been successful, and came here, because he thought he saw a better chance of making more money. In those days the bridge stood about four hundred feet north





of its present location, and Low's store was at the bridge entrance, south side. The building was of brick, and stood near the river bank. It was burned down about 1820.

Abraham Ackerman succeeded John Low and did an immense business. In addition to his general store and postoffice (the latter amounting to very little as his store was used for that purpose as a matter of convenience only, by the people), he did a large lumber and shipping business, operating a line of boats between here and New York. It was not long before Ackerman removed his store to about the present No. 159 River drive, both above and below which he had extensive docks and warehouses. Being located at the head of navigation, on the Passaic river, the place possessed and enjoyed great advantages. The products of the farm, field, forest and mines, were brought here for shipment, while imports, one might say, from all parts of the world, were landed at this spot, making it the greatest business mart for northern New Jersey, and of all places hereabouts, the best, and most natural one for persons to get their mail. The question of having a regularly appointed postoffice and postmaster, however, was never agitated while Ackerman assumed as such, in the carrying on of his regular business. Ackerman, in 1804, sold out his lumber business to Richard Morrell and John A. Post, who engaged in the lumber business, of which the Anderson lumber company is their successor today.

About this time, a rival came on the scene in the person of Peter Jackson, who was a man of not only tireless energy, like Ackerman, but possessed more push and enterprise. He opened a general store in the building, subsequently known as Ryerson's hotel, on the opposite side of the street, and a little above Ackerman's store. Jackson not only saw the convenience of a postoffice but felt its necessity, and it was not long before he began to agitate the establishment of one, and finally succeeded in having himself appointed the first postmaster of Acquackanonk, on July 1, 1814. The late Henry P. Simmons was his clerk, and may be considered as having been the first assistant postmaster, if the designation may be allowed. Jackson was not only a successful, but also a popular postmaster. In business he was very successful and became rich. He reared a fine family. His sons acquired fame throughout the state; one as a famous lawyer, of Newark, and another as president of the Pennsylvania railroad. Mrs. Jackson took an active part in church work of the old Dutch Reformed church. The prestige which Jackson acquired as a business man may have been one of the means of his holding the office of postmaster until May 1, 1838, near twenty-four years, almost a quarter century.

Peter Jackson had also as clerk in addition to Henry P. Simmons, Henry W. Van Winkle, who with his brother, Adolph had then lately been conducting a store just below the railroad bridge, succeeding Ludlow brothers, who had failed in business. The advent of the railroad



had ruined their business, which they closed out at the old place, and Henry went to work for Jackson, at his store near the county bridge. Simmons was then transferred to Jackson's store at Pompton, and Henry Van Winkle became quasi postmaster.

About this time the tide in the affairs of Jackson began to turn. His shipping business, which had begun to decline when the iron horse crossed the river, and invaded the peaceful Landing, for the first time, was now reduced to almost nothing. The panic of 1836 had set in and Jackson was fast going to the wall, which even his salary as postmaster could not prevent. To avoid failure he sold out to his clerk, Henry W. Van Winkle, who continued to discharge the duties of postmaster, although, according to the official records at Washington, he received no appointment.

Van Winkle had as clerk, Isaac I. Vanderbeek, who had come here from Hackensack, to engage in business, on September 25, 1829, the very day he attained full age, with Peter Jackson, along with Simmons and Van Winkle. He continued on in the latter's employ after Van Winkle had bought out Jackson; but only for a short time, a month or so, when he left Van Winkle, and went in business with William L. Andruss, under the name of Vanderbeek & Andruss. Their store was a long and narrow one-story brick building, which stood on the dock on the site of Speer's Wine Warehouse, opposite the Reformed Dutch church, at Acquackanonk. They did a general shipping and store business, running a line of boats to and from New York. Van Winkle still kept the postoffice at the old place.

Vanderbeek was a man of considerable push and enterprise, always looking out and ahead for opportunities to increase their business, which as Mr. Andruss said, was not sufficient to support two families. After vain efforts to build up a paying business, Mr. Andruss withdrew, and opened a tavern, buying out the business of Uriah Van Riper. Vanderbeek still continued the store business. As a means of increasing that business, he had his eye on the postoffice, which he believed would be a good thing to have located and established at his store. His efforts which were considerable in that direction, were successful, and on the first day of May, 1838, he was appointed postmaster at Acquackanonk, the first regularly appointed one since Peter Jackson's appointment, July 1, 1814. He held the office until June 10, 1841. Soon after he removed his store to 87 River drive, where he continued business until he was elected sheriff in 1848. After his term expired he moved to Jersey City, and engaged in lumber and real estate business and became the wealthiest man of that city. He died February 8, 1893, and was buried at Cedar Lawn. His wife, Ann Oldis, died December 16, 1888. He and Mr. Andruss married sisters, who were the daughters of the famous tavern keeper, Oldis, of Paramus.

Richard Morrell was the next postmaster. He received the appoint-





ment June 10, 1841, and moved the office back to the old stand. He did not hold the office long. From the records of the general postoffice at Washington, set forth below, he appears to have held the office from June 10, 1841, to April 25, 1854; but Mr. Andrus informs the writer that this is evidently a mistake, as Melancthon S. Wickware was postmaster here for a number of years previous to 1849, and had the office in his store, in the building long and familiarly known as Ryerson's hotel (Peter Jackson's old store). It may have been that, nominally, Morrell was postmaster, but becoming tired of it, had turned it over to Wickware. In those days, the discipline, rules and regulations of the postoffice, were nothing like what they are at the present day. Then anything would do, and the postmasters had things their own way. Wickware had a grocery store at the place above mentioned. He was a careful, methodical, scholarly man, and a great friend of Richard Morrell, who on the other hand, was a man for whom details of business had no attraction, but who preferred to be out and about town. Wickware, in addition to his store and postoffice, taught the village school, which stood up on the hill near the church. He was an industrious man, and if ever a man tried to succeed in life, by hard work, he did. His store was the rendezvous of the natives, on winter nights, who would gather around the store stove and discuss the affairs of village, state and nation. Wickware was a strong Millerite, and it was at his house that the meetings of that religious sect were held. He was one of the first converts to be baptized in the river, at the county bridge, on a Sunday afternoon before a great crowd of people, and he was in the van of the procession that marched to the top of "Tony's Nose," dressed all in white, in expectation of the second coming of Christ. He continued to act as postmaster until 1849. His grave stone in the old church yard bears no date.

William L. Andruss was appointed in 1849, he told the editor, but the record says April 25, 1854. Andruss, it will be remembered, had opened a tavern, after dissolving partnership with Vanderbeck, which he had continued to run to good profit. His place was one of those respectable country taverns, which in those days of stage coaches and travel by carriage was a public convenience and necessity. Mr. Andruss always made it a rule never to sell liquor to anyone who would get drunk. His tavern was the great public meeting place, where were held meetings of committees, commissioners, and even of the justice courts. He had besides some of New Jersey's noted men, as callers. Almost daily in fine weather Chief Justice Hornblower, Governor Pennington, John Colt, the noted firearms man, and many others drove up on horseback to enjoy Mr. Andruss' hospitality. Mr. Andruss, however, became tired of the business and determined to open a grocery store. One day while the late ex-Mayor Ayerigg was taking dinner at the old tavern, he asked Mr. Andruss how he would like to be postmaster. Mr. Andruss



told him that the little salary attached would hardly pay for the trouble. Mr. Ayerigg, however, replied he thought it would be a help to him in his store business, and said further that he could secure Andruss' appointment. Mr. Andruss agreed to take it. Mr. Ayerigg made application and Mr. Andruss was appointed postmaster and held the office from 1849, he said, to August 27, 1869. He removed the office from the county bridge, to what was then considered out of the town, and that was to the present No. 593 Main avenue. On April 25, 1854, the name of the place was changed from Acquackanonk to Passaic. The old name, however, clung to the place for some time after the official change therein. Dr. Terhune had in his possession two letters, from Horace Greeley, with the original envelopes, dated, New York, February 25 and 26, 1855, one directed to R. A. Terhune and the other to the Postmaster, "Acquackanonk, N. J."

Thomas Newell, who at the time was the first village clerk, was appointed to succeed Mr. Andruss, August 27, 1869, and for convenience, removed the office to a two-storied frame building standing on the present No. 50 River drive, the second floor of which, since May 15th, had been and still was occupied as the first council chamber and clerk's office. The lower floor was taken for the postoffice, having been the drug store of Dr. Alanson M. Randol, which had moved to the present No. 230 Washington place on September 1, 1869, when the postoffice moved in and where it remained until May 1, 1871, when it was removed to No. 228 Washington place, next to the drug store, where a disastrous fire destroyed the building, but not the postoffice contents, which were saved, being carried across the street to Kilgour lyceum, now No. 217 Washington place, where temporary quarters were fixed up which answered all purposes until May 1, 1874, when for the fourth time Mr. Newell made a move, this time to what is now No. 168 Prospect street, where it continued until Mr. Newell's death. It was while here and because of ill health, which kept him at home most of the time, that he secured the first assistant postmaster in the person of Henry Jackson. Mr. Newell's accounts were found to be \$503.07 short, which his three bondsmen paid the government.

William A. Willard was appointed postmaster January 24, 1881, and on the first of May following removed the office to the northeast corner of Bloomfield avenue and Prospect streets, which he completely refurnished, at his own expense. The older office having simply a pigeon hole case containing fifty ordinary letter boxes in the center of which was a small window below which were twelve larger lock drawers. In lieu of these Mr. Willard placed a case in the shape of an "L" containing two hundred and fifty letter boxes and forty-eight lock drawers. He was very methodical and in a little while, with the assistance of one clerk, improved everything. With the election of Cleveland the Democrats succeeded in having the late former Assemblyman John Kennell,





Sr., appointed postmaster April 4, 1887, who removed the office to the present No. 5 Passaic avenue. While here John Kennell, Jr., was appointed assistant. Kennell, Jr., therefore was the first person to be appointed a full-fledged assistant postmaster, not a figurehead, but a zealous, active one, in charge during frequent absences of his father.

The election of Harrison gave Republicans control again, who succeeded in having Benjamin E. McGrew, former city treasurer, appointed April 9, 1889, who removed the office to the present No. 20 Passaic avenue, where it remained until May 1, 1892, when, strange to relate, it was removed from No. 20 Passaic avenue, then owned by an active member of the Republican party to No. 5 Bloomfield avenue, owned by a Democrat, to which party the next postmaster was to belong. Toward the end of his term McGrew, an honest, respectable citizen of good repute, became confused in his accounts, considered himself a defaulter, and absconded. An examination of his accounts proved them correct, and that the postmaster had had a case of bad nerves.

Democrats coming into power again, Adrian Norman was appointed postmaster June 16, 1893. He appointed John Cadmus assistant postmaster.

The Republicans again controlling, Dennis W. Mahony was appointed September 17, 1897, and succeeded by his affable manners and intimate relations with the party's managers in retaining the office until his death, November 30, 1913. During his administration and in March, 1902, the postoffice was removed to its present location—northwest corner of Bloomfield avenue and Prospect street—whence on the 2 o'clock Erie train, on March 26th, the first mail was despatched. On this date ninety odd years before, it will be remembered, the first action was taken to establish a postoffice at Passaic. Upon the date of the death of Mr. Mahoney, his widow, Letitia E. Mahoney, was appointed acting postmistress and served until June 8, 1914. The next day, June 9, 1914, James J. Cowley, the present incumbent, received his appointment of postmaster and took charge of the office, in the management of which he has shown efficiency, giving every minute of his time to the work, which, it is his desire, to improve, and, to an outsider, it would seem as if his greatest desire toward, and for, the great public, whom he serves is, Service with a great, big "S."

The morale of the office is of the best order. Every employee in harmony with the business which runs smoothly and efficiently under postmaster Cowley, not forgetting the material assistance received from Miss Lottie Leishear.

In August, 1871, the first money order was issued from the Passaic postoffice by Thomas Newell, then postmaster. The office at that date was at No. 228 Washington Place, in the present armory building.

Passaic then had in the neighborhood of 3,500 inhabitants. The Erie station was at Washington Place, where it had been placed two years





before, previous to which it had been at River street. Until about 1869, practically all business in the village was on lower Main avenue. Dr. R. A. Terhune was president of the village, and Mr. Newell was village clerk. Up to this time, Market square—the junction of old Main Avenue and Prospect, was the business heart of the village, and Alfred Speer, who was the owner of much real estate in that neighborhood, said “that all the blowing and scheming of real estate speculators would never remove it.” He and others fought hard to keep all business confined to its old channel, but in vain. Even the public school had been moved to its new building a few months previous, and from one teacher and fifty-six scholars, now numbered eight teachers and 326 scholars. On May 1, the mayor’s and city clerk’s offices and council chamber were removed to the basement of the public school, and the postoffice to Washington place. In March of that year, in compliance with the request of our citizens and council, the Secretary of War directed his engineers to make a survey of the river from Newark to our Wall street bridge, for the purpose of improving navigation. For over fifty years this survey has continued, and the only result is that about once every score of years some one will happen to think of the matter and will stand up to ask questions. Thereafter, another twenty-year sleep is taken.

But not so with the business of our postoffice, which has always been enterprising and progressive. In the old Star Route days, which to us is ancient history, it was impossible to secure any assistance for old established offices like Passaic. It was difficult for those in authority at Washington to understand why old Acquackanonk postoffice, which from 1814 to 1869 handled, on an average, thirty letters a day, should now be asking for greater facilities, and to designate a money order office. In fact the matter became so urgent that Congressman John Hill and the fourth assistant postmaster general came here and investigated. Their report was favorable to the establishment of a money order office to be opened August 1, 1871. The need of money orders became necessary to accommodate several workmen in Reid and Barry’s mill, who in this way were able to remit their wages to their families in Massachusetts.

In those days, the postmaster was at the expense of furnishing the postoffice. The government paid his salary and the rent. The office itself was smaller than the present store of the butcher, and was daily becoming inadequate. On the nights of December 8th and 19th, 1878, burglars made visits. At the first they secured money and stamps to the value of over \$200. The second visit bore no fruit. Mr. Newell died in office. During those early days, the postmaster was more than a figure-head. In fact, he was considered a personal entity, upon whom was heaped all the faults, failures and happenings of the postoffice, and it was a common thing for citizens to notify the postmaster and public generally that: the postmaster was too slow; he took too much time to as-



sort the mail; he read the post cards; was partial to some; catered to the rich; allowed letters to accumulate until at the end of several days, he would deliver half a dozen to the parties for whom intended, and then only after threats had been made to complain to postmaster general; he intrusted the work too much to boys; a new postmaster was needed, one who would be more alert to the needs of the office, etc.

In 1871, there were two daily mails, east at 8 a. m. and 2 p. m., and for the west at 8 a. m. and 4 p. m., while two arrived from the east, one at 8:44 a. m. and 4:29 p. m., and one from the west at 8:35 a. m.

Postmaster Newell reported August 1, 1873: Number of money orders issued for two years, 695; amounting to \$14,450.20; Number of money orders paid, 290, amounting to \$5,416.80; Surplus of those issued, \$9,033.40; Letters received in July, 1873, 6,816; Largest was on July 29th, 334; Average daily received, 252; Value of stamps cancelled in July, \$166.46; Average daily, \$6.16; Average number of letters received daily, 1,869, 30 Average daily receipts, 1869, \$.89.

In 1893 there were 1,912 domestic money orders, 752 postal notes, and 1,163 international money orders issued; in the same year 1,924 domestic money orders, 1,050 postal notes, and 152 international money orders were paid. In 1913 this office issued 41,011 domestic money orders, amounting to \$376,082.82, with fees aggregating \$2,728.08; and 3,958 international money orders, amounting to \$52,603.04, with fees aggregating \$689.78. There were 21,179 domestic orders amounting to \$253,097.74, and 312 international orders amounting to \$6,937.06 paid during the year. These figures include the business transacted at the fourteen contract stations of this office as well as that at Clifton and Garfield branches.

A domestic money order drawn for payment on any money order postoffice in the Continental United States may now be paid at any money order postoffice in the Continental United States. This feature is also responsible for the increasing popularity of the system.

The need of carriers became imminent with the coming of the Botany Mills, although just previous thereto and in the last half year of 1888 experiments were made in this work by Joseph Speer, who has the honor of being the first letter carrier for this city. After two months, Alonzo Mandeville (who is still in the service), and again shortly after John L. McClosky, undertook to act as carriers, being paid ten cents a week for each family served. Although intended as an experiment only, it proved the necessity of carriers, and arrangements were made by John Kennell, son of the then postmaster, who appointed the first regular carriers, viz.: 1. John L. McCloskey; 2. William R. Powell (who died in service); 3. Charles Heuser; 4. George Lucas, who was retired on pension 1922. They began as carriers February 1, 1889. They each received \$650 a year salaries.

From the lone postmaster of 1871, the present office force, in addi-





tion to the postmaster and assistant postmaster, consists of thirty-five men and women clerks, and fifty-two regular and one rural carrier. Mr. Mandeville is the oldest employe in years of service. Since February 1, 1899, stamps have been cancelled by an electric machine.

The oldest money order in existence issued from this office so far as known to the writer is number 20,000 and was issued March 18, 1899 for five cents to Mr. John Bailey, then a clerk in the office, and now in charge of the money order division there.

Officers, clerks, etc., are as follows:

James J. Cowley, postmaster; Simon Dyt, assistant postmaster; Samuel Bailey, superintendent of mails; John Bailey, foreman mail order division; Alfred Gee, foreman carriers; Joseph P. Lally, superintendent of Clifton Branch.

Clerks—Chester F. Allen, William J. Belfi, Adam Buys, John C. Coffey, Nicholas J. Cowley, Marinus J. DeGroot, Henry DeKeyser, William B. Eastwood, John Graney, Frank Gersie, Reuben Goldstein, George E. Hackett, John F. Kelley, Maurice Lefkowitz, Lottie Leishear, Louis B. McEnroe, Heuston Mahony, William M. Martin, Lewis Mather, Wilfred Roosa, Abraham Saxe, Alfred W. Stark, William H. Stuckey, Joseph A. Tirpak.

Sub-Clerks—Nat Grotzky, Samuel Judlowitz, Julius Kasdin, Roy Keefe, Jacob Noonburg, Jr.

Janitor—Harry Craft.

Present Carriers—Earle A. Hershberger, Patrick J. Durkin, Alonzo Mandeville, Martin C. Meany, Dennis T. Lyons, John Witte, Bernard Garrick, William M. Swartz, Rine S. DeVries, Abraham Heyboer, Andrew Wilson, Jacob Karl, Anthony Arts, Emil P. Loeffler, Jacob Groendyk, James Noonburg, Edwin Flanagan, John J. Duffy, James Peacock, William J. Kievit, Cornelius F. Dyt, Louis A. Koren, Robert J. Clabby, Peter Karl, Nicholas Van Dorn, Fred Butterworth, Frank J. Macomber, Walter A. Harrison, George H. Woolley, Edward B. Lanning, Frank C. Kievit, Walter Terhune, Casson A. Wilson, Patrick McGarrigle, Henry I. Weinberg, John Marrion, Peter F. Van Heest, Patrick F. Mahon, Peter Grunstra, Gustave Flamm, Walter Pruiksma, Joseph Flanagan, Philip G. Ratzer, Albert Klapmust, Albert Alston.

Substitute Carriers—Howard Scraver, Michael Nebesnak, John Bonnema, Frank Novack, Frank Novotny and Angelo Schevon.

Rural Carrier—Henry D. Smith. Total number of carriers, 53.

A horse and wagon was first used in the delivery of mail to the outlying sections in 1895 and was continued until 1917. It was then found that the sections served by the wagon routes were so closely built up that it was more economical to serve by carriers on foot, and the horses and wagons were discontinued. The parcel-post system was inaugurated on January 1, 1913, and a horse and wagon was used to deliver this class of mail commencing about December 15, 1913. On July 1, 1920, government-owned automobile service was established and two three-eighth-ton truck were placed in operation, and a one-ton commercial truck was added on November 1, 1921. The responsibility of carrying the mail between the Postoffice and the railroad station rests with the Erie Railroad Company.

Average number received, First Class .....	30,000
Second and Third Classes .....	10,000



Parcel Post, or Fourth Class.....	1,500
Average number despatched, First Class.....	30,000
Average number cancellations .....	35,000
Average number received, all sources.....	75,000
Average monthly .....	1,900,000
Money Orders—Year ending December 31, 1920:	
Domestic Issued .....	65,941
Domestic Paid .....	25,788
Total Transactions .....	91,729
Value of Issued .....	\$ 832,293.30
Value of Paid .....	487,688.01
Total Amount of Transactions.....	\$1,319,981.01
Fees Aggregating .....	\$ 5,487.52
International Issued .....	1,382
International Paid .....	184
Total Transactions .....	1,566
Value of Issued .....	\$ 15,949.95
Value of Paid .....	5,533.06
Total Amount of Transactions.....	\$ 21,483.01
Fees, Aggregating .....	\$ 215.90

Postal Savings Bank established 1911, first deposit made September 30, by Sadie Marie Campbell, eleven years of age.

Total deposits December 31, 1920, \$622,096; Number of Depositors, 1,255; Average monthly deposit, \$30,000; Average monthly withdrawals, \$20,000; Average monthly increase, \$10,000.

Number of Carrier Routes—Passaic, 29; Clifton, 8; Garfield, 7. Autos for Parcel-Post delivery, 3. Salaries—Postmaster, \$3,800; Assistant Postmaster, \$2,600; Clerks and Carriers, \$1,800.

Office open, 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. Week-day Mails—Outgoing, East, 10; West, 8. Incoming, East, 14; West, 9. Holiday Mails received and despatched same as on week days until 7 p. m.

Sub-Stations and Superintendents—No. 1, 235 Main avenue, Passaic, N. J., Roy B. Matthews; No. 2, 125 Second street, Passaic, N. J., P. Zalewski; No. 3, 55 Highland avenue, Passaic, N. J., Frank Palmison; No. 4, 64 Belmont avenue, Garfield, N. J., Anna Vasilyk; No. 5, 46 Monroe street, Passaic, N. J., Meyer Brigglin; No. 6, 22 Main street, Garfield, N. J., W. Huebner; No. 7, 898 Main avenue, Passaic, N. J., Wm. Spaar; No. 8, 172 Passaic street, Passaic, N. J., Max Starr; No. 9, 123 Harrison avenue, Garfield, N. J., Charles Ciolino; No. 10, 330 Passaic street, Passaic, N. J., Luigi Scelfo; No. 11, 106 Jewell street, Garfield, N. J., Thomas Winnik; No. 12, 60 Union place, Wallington, N. J., T. O. Claussen; No. 13, 224 Monroe street, Passaic, N. J., Hyman Berlin; No. 14, 519 Clifton avenue, Clifton, N. J., Nels Rydberg.

The Passaic postoffice covers about twenty-five square miles of territory, including Clifton and Garfield, with their various well-known localities, and Wallington, to properly manage which requires men with brains.



## BATTLE FOR POSTOFFICE SITE.

The growth in population of Passaic, Clifton, Garfield and Wallington, all which are served from the Passaic office, forced attention upon all concerned of the need of larger room for the postoffice so far back as 1910, when steps were taken by the Board of Trade to secure a conveniently located tract of land large enough to serve the purpose for many years to come. Victor L. Mason, then president of the Board of Trade, had considerable influence with the heads of the various postoffice departments and a large acquaintance among the leading political men in Washington, among whom he labored to secure an appropriation by Congress of a suitable sum for a site and building. In that year he secured an appropriation of \$25,000 for the site alone. It was soon realized that this was not enough to secure a suitable plot, and efforts were resumed to obtain more money, but unfortunately Mason died in May, 1912, which materially lessened the chance of success, and the work fell to the lot of Charles F. H. Johnson, who succeeded Mr. Mason as president. Instead, however, of laboring for an increased appropriation Mr. Johnson considered it advisable to utilize the appropriation for a site, so far as it would go, and if not enough, raise what was needed privately. With this end in view he requested the Department to receive offers of sites, which was done, and an official agent made a number of visits here to inspect the sites offered. Mr. Johnson submitted nineteen. Strenuous effort was made to have the site selected, on Lexington avenue near Monroe street. All sites were carefully inspected by officials of both the Postoffice and Treasury Departments, and every one rejected for various reasons. A request was then made for another inspection, whereupon an agent of the Treasury Department was sent here to look over the field. After a careful survey he was impressed with the advantages possessed, over all others, of the site at the northerly corner of Grove and Garden streets. Mr. Johnson at once set to work to obtain options thereon, and after securing them offered the site to the government, which required more land than was included in the site so submitted, upon which an option was secured. After due consideration this site was selected on February 12, 1913. This did not include the five dwellings thereon which were reserved for removal. The price of the land alone was \$39,000 toward which there had been appropriated but \$25,000, leaving a difference of \$14,000 which Mr. Johnson immediately started out to raise among his friends. He succeeded and in a short time secured it. While Johnson was thus engaged he was surprised to learn that his opponents had secured an option on the site at the apex of Garden and Henry streets at the price of \$45,000, which they planned to have a delegation go to Washington and submit to the government on March 1, 1913. This was done. Mr. Johnson went also, and offered to agree to accept the newly proposed





site, provided he could be released from his contracts with the owners of the accepted site. This having been attempted before this meeting, without success, and so reported to Sherman Allen, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury before whom the delegation appeared, he refused to entertain the proposition, and the contest ceased after Mr. Allen had expressed praise of Mr. Johnson, whom, he said, had been of invaluable assistance to his department in selecting a postoffice site for Passaic. Mr. Johnson returned home and proceeded with acquiring title for the government for whom he obtained the necessary deeds of conveyance. The site thus acquired measures one hundred and forty-eight feet on Grove and one hundred and sixty-seven feet on Garden street, which, time has taught, was a wise selection. Three of the dwellings remain and occupied, on Grove street. The two on Garden street have been removed.

The World War interfered with an appropriation of \$275,000 for a building. Just when an appropriation will be made is unknown. In the meantime the local office must needs operate on a space of 3,892 square feet when 8,000 feet are needed; to relieve which a temporary building is now being built by a party from Newark, corner of Washington place and William street, to be finished September 1.









## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### VILLAGE AND CITY GOVERNMENTS TO 1911.

The earliest mention of the word "County" used to describe generally any locality, is made in a law of November 13, 1678, which among other things provided that two courts be kept a year in each respective county, "Elizabethtown and Newark," without giving the boundaries. Prior to this no county is mentioned. In fact, no county up to that time had been formed by any law.

Essex county, including Passaic county, was formed by an Act of the Legislature of 1682. The city of Passaic is in the county of that name, which county was set off from the county of Essex by an Act of February 7, 1837, where it still remains.

Previous to 1866, Passaic was governed by the old township laws. A few years previous to this, Charles M. K. Paulison came here and began to improve the old farms by laying out streets through them. He was full of enterprise and push, and believed in improvements. Although he improved the streets running through his land, he did not receive the co-operation of the old residents, who looked with a jealous eye upon the new comer. As the law stood then, Paulison found that the old settlers could not be compelled to make any street improvements. For the purpose of facilitating such improvements, Paulison was instrumental in having several acts passed.

By the Act of the Legislature of March 27, 1866, authority was given to the inhabitants of the village of Passaic to improve the sidewalks lying within the following boundaries of the present city; commencing at the river where the Erie railroad crosses the same, thence northerly along the railroad to Lafayette avenue, thence northwesterly to Bloomfield avenue, thence in a straight line to a point on Main avenue one hundred feet north of residence of Henry P. Simmons (now Henry street, or thereabouts), thence easterly through Madison street to the river, and thence down the river to the beginning. Under this act, Alfred Speer was elected the first superintendent of streets, and three landowners were elected commissioners, who laid a number of sidewalks at Mr. Speer's expense, the greater part of which he was unable to collect because of defects in the law which, however, was amended March 7, 1867, curing the defects.

The following is a copy of a notice in the possession of the writer, printed on a double paged letter sheet of paper, five by seven inches. Although the owner in this and scores of other cases, ignored the notice, Mr. Speer proceeded with the work for which, as he afterwards learned from his lawyer, there was no authority in the act, which simply gave him power to superintend the work only.



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SIDE WALKS.

PASSAIC, N. J., April 30, 1866.

To MRS. JAPE CAMPBELL:

In pursuance of the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the state of New Jersey, entitled "An Act to authorize the inhabitants of the village of Passaic to improve the side walks of said village," I hereby notify you to lay a side walk on the line of your property on Railroad Ave. (Erie depot) according to grade and regulations by me established. Said side walk shall not be less than four feet wide, to be made of good flagging, hard merchantable brick, or plank. If laid with plank, they must be laid crosswise, of good sound lumber not less than one and a quarter inches thick, nor more than five inches in width, laid on three sleepers, running parallel with the street, with a space of half an inch between each plank.

I do also, by virtue of said act, order that the grading and paving of so much of said side walks as is in front of your lands and premises on said avenue be done within three months from the date of this notice.

ALFRED SPEER, Superintendent of side walks.

By act of April 2, 1868, entitled, "An Act for the improvement of Passaic," five freeholders were elected, to be known as the "Board of Commissioners of Passaic," whose duties were to have general supervision of streets and sidewalks, roads, squares and parks, and to improve the same. These laws, however, did not answer the purposes of a village, and for this reason the new comers secured the passage on March 10, 1869, of an act entitled, "An Act to Incorporate the Village of Passaic." This was amended March 21, 1871, by an act entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Village of Passaic, and to set off said Village from the Township of Acquackanonk." These two acts embrace what is known as the Village Charter. Passaic was incorporated into a city by act of April 2, 1873, which act was amended by acts of March 24, 1874 and April 9, 1875.

By the amendment to the Constitution of the State which went into effect September 28, 1875, the legislature was prohibited from passing any private, local or special law regulating the internal affairs of towns and counties.

By act of March 24, 1882, cities were classified for purposes of legislation. Cities having a population of not less than twelve thousand nor more than one hundred thousand, were classified as "Cities of the second class." Previous to July 16, 1891, Passaic was a city of the third class.

By an act of April 2, 1891, the last census, National or State, was made applicable to cities after the expiration of ninety days from the official promulgation thereof. On April 17, 1891, the official promulgation was made of the United States census of 1890, and the population of Passaic was declared to be 13,028; hence ninety days thereafter, or on July 16, 1891, Passaic passed from a third to a second class city, which it now is, the present population being about 65,000. All laws, therefore, governing the city, in addition to the charters, will be found





under general laws respecting cities—of the third class, 1875 to 1891; and of the second class, 1891 to 1922. The boundaries of the City, as described in the charter, are as follows:

Beginning at low water mark on the westerly side of the Passaic River, at the point where the southerly line of lands of James I. Goetchius intersects said river; thence north 49 degrees, 3 minutes west, along the northerly line of the said lands to the line known as the Dwas Line; thence along said Dwas Line north 44 degrees, 41 minutes east 5 chains, 80 links to a corner in the northerly line of lands late of Halmagh Sip, deceased; thence along the last mentioned northerly line north 40 degrees, 41 minutes west to the northwesterly side of the Bloomfield or Mineral Spring Road; thence north 20 degrees, 41 minutes east 116 chains and 6 links, more or less, to the northwesterly corner of Henry V. Butler's farm; thence north 77 degrees, 45 minutes east to the westerly side of Passaic River, at low water mark; thence southerly and westerly along said low water mark of the Passaic River, the several courses thereof, to the place of beginning. Including the island.

The first election under the village charter was held April 12, 1869, when Octavius D. Baldwin was elected president, and Daniel Demarest, Benjamin S. Watson for the First District (Ward), George W. Conkling and Hiram M. Herrick for the Second District, and Benjamin B. Ayer and George McLean for the Third District, councilmen. These districts corresponded with the present wards of the city, excepting that the First included both of the present First and Fourth Wards.

These men met to organize on April 24th following, in the real estate office called the Eel Pot, which stood upon the site of the present No. 229 Washington place. The Eel Pot was a one-story frame shanty, unfinished without, but decorated with scribblings and hasty drawings on its walls within. Mr. Demarest acted as clerk *pro tem*. He was followed, at the same meeting, by the election of Thomas Newell as clerk. The second meeting was held April 30 at the same place, when the following Commissioners of Assessment were elected: William H. Tice, First District; Halmagh M. Post, Second District; John J. Feaster, Third District. At the same time there were elected: A. Z. Van Houten, treasurer; Charles J. Kenworthy, superintendent of streets; Aaron Kinter, surveyor; and Peter Q. Eckerson, collector. Among other committees appointed was one on Rooms. John T. Van Iderstine at the previous township election had been elected tax assessor.

The next meeting was held May 3d, at the same place, at which the committee on rooms, having reported recommending the leasing for city purposes of the second floor of a frame building which stood at the present No. 50 River drive, the council resolved to adopt the report, and directed the committee to fix it up, which was done and completed by May 17, when and where the fourth meeting was held, and the first promissory (for \$500) note was drawn at three months.

At this meeting the matter of improving certain streets was taken up in the following order: Bloomfield avenue and Washington Place (considered as one street), Weasel road (now Lexington avenue), Main





avenue, Paulison avenue. The first communication received was from Passaic Fire Association, asking for recognition as a corporate body.

Strange as it seemed, Alfred Speer, who for over two years had been so busy compelling other people to repair their sidewalks, could not see defects in his own, was the first person to be notified by the Council to get busy on his own. The first assessment for street improvement was that of Washington place. The first bill paid by the village was that of Secretary of State for copy of charter, \$19.63. Frank Childs was the first janitor, and Albert Comstock the first legal advisor.

The proceeds of the \$500 note (which was the first cash possessed by the village), had been nearly all paid out by November 1st, as appears by a resolution of that date directing that "a warrant be issued on account, to Robert Rushman, janitor, to the extent of \$11.75, being the *balance of money in the treasury*." An example or precedent worthy of emulation was here set, although not always followed by succeeding councils. Instead of borrowing more money, this old council considered it better for creditors to wait for their money until taxes came in. This included the twenty-five cents owing the janitor. The period of waiting would not be long, as tax bills were about to be sent out, and although the taxpayers had until December 20th in which to pay, the council figured upon the payment of some before that date, which turned out true, and at its next meeting there was sufficient to pay the janitor's twenty-five cents.

At the next election in April, 1870, Dr. Richard A. Terhune was elected president, whose appointments were: Thomas Newell, clerk; William Clark, treasurer; Gilbert D. Bogart, superintendent of streets; Hugh M. Herrick, collector; and James L. Smith, surveyor. The latter was ticket agent for the Erie at Passaic, and one of the foremost politicians of the village. He was surveyor in name only, the actual work being done by John S. Strange, an Englishman who never became a naturalized citizen of the United States. On July 25th, Mr. Strange received the appointment of deputy surveyor.

The village council, among other things, laid good foundations for many structures to be built thereon. Almost the first act was that of appointing three map commissioners to make a map of the entire village area, which was divided into two districts, Passaic Avenue and Street dividing them. The work was so well done as to have served as authority in all questions concerning streets from that early day to this. In this same year, (1870) there was formed a Police Department and Fire Company, which required much time and scrupulous care.

During the years 1870-1872, Passaic was a seething pot of partisan politics, when, as Francis C. Cogan, city clerk, said to the writer, a man was a fool who claimed to be anything but a Republican, and even though of that party, if a man's activities in that line did not, either in speed or quality and quantity, meet the approval of the bosses, he was



not wanted for office, and so it came to pass that in June, 1870, there were summarially removed without a hearing the superintendent of streets, treasurer, legal advisor and surveyor, the latter being succeeded by Mr. Strange, deputy surveyor, who made the first maps of the village. Even the first pound master, John S. Grey, was thus deposed.

An Amendment to the charter, which was approved March 21, 1871, enlarged the area of the village to the dimensions of the present city, set off the same from the township, increased its councilmen to nine, and fixed the term of its president at two years. At the election in April, Dr. Terhune was re-elected and served until the first election under the act of incorporation (commonly called the first Charter) of the City of Passaic, approved April 2, 1873, when another physician, Dr. Benjamin B. Ayerigg, then a councilman, was elected first mayor of the city. The elections under the city charter were required to be held the same date upon which the village charter had provided for, viz.: second Tuesday of April in each year. The village charter provided that the president's term should begin on the Monday after his election, which this and subsequent years was to be held on the second Monday in April, for a term of two years. The second Monday of that month fell on the tenth, and the next Monday was the seventeenth. The city charter's provision for the commencement of the mayor's term was the same as that of the village, viz.: the next Monday after his election. The 1873 election was on the second Monday of April (the 14th) and the next Monday when the mayor's term began was the twenty-first, consequently there was an interim in that office of seven days which was filled by Dr. Terhune, who thus, technically perhaps, became the first mayor of the city, although he did not in this interval perform any act officially, or otherwise, which he, undoubtedly, had the power to do, had exigency of the case required. The doctor was a congenial, good natured, conciliatory and popular physician, in whom there was not the smallest symptom of the prevailing incubus among the eparchs of the village government politics. Because of his agreeableness and docility, he was selected by these eparchs, who carried on the business of the village their way through officers of their own selection. With these qualifications inserted, it may be said that Dr. Terhune made a good president.

By its charter the city was divided into three wards, as follows: First, all that part lying easterly and northeasterly of the center line of the road known as the Paterson and New York plank road (Main avenue and River drive), constituted the first ward; second, all that part thereof lying northerly of the center line of Paulison avenue, continued on the same course to the easterly and westerly limits of the city and westerly or southwesterly of the center line of Main avenue, constituted the second ward; third, all that part thereof lying southerly of the center line of Paulison avenue continued as above, constituted the



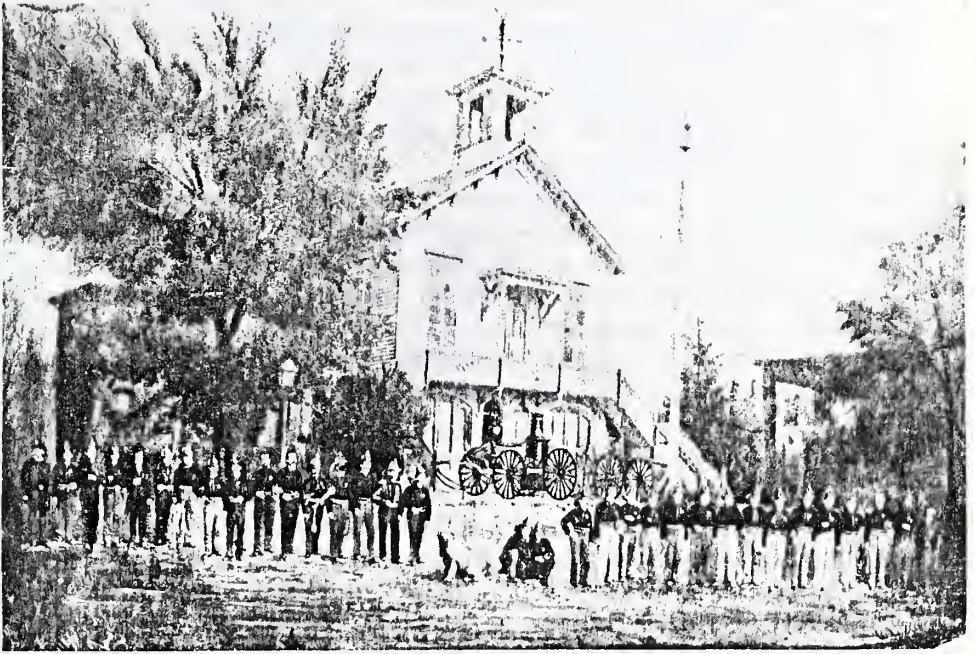


third ward. A part of the first ward was set off and designated the fourth ward by an ordinance approved March 8, 1887, under an act of the Legislature entitled An Act to Amend an Act entitled, "An Act Concerning Division of Wards in Cities of this State, approved April 25, 1884"; passed February 28, 1888, whereby the city council was empowered by a two-thirds vote to divide any one ward into two wards. The boundaries of the fourth ward, so established, are as follows: Beginning at the point where the center line of Passaic street intersects the center line of Main avenue; running thence easterly along the center line of Passaic street to the center line of the head race of the Dundee canal; thence northerly to the city limits; thence westerly to the center of Main avenue, and thence southerly to the beginning.

The civil government of the city was composed of a mayor whose term of office was two years; three councilmen from each ward, one being elected from each ward annually for the term of three years; a collector, whose term was three years; board of assessors of five members, one only being elected by the voters, his term being three years; the others were appointed by the mayor—two, each second year; board of health of six persons, one from each ward appointed by the mayor for four years; city treasurer appointed by the mayor for one year. The Board of Education was composed of three members from each ward, one from each ward being elected annually for three years. In addition to these, there were: A superintendent of streets, city physician, registrar of vital statistics; engineers of steamers, city attorney, policemen, police justice, superintendent of fire alarm, chief of fire department, commissioners of appeal, overseer of the poor, pound master, city engineer, janitors, and other minor officers, who were appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council. The mayor received no salary or other compensation, neither did the Council or Board of Education. The annual "charter" election of the city was held on the second Tuesday in April (now first in November), between the hours of six a. m. and seven p. m. For a more particular description of matters pertaining to the civil government of the city, the reader is referred to "City of Passaic, Charter and Ordinances," compiled and annotated by Thomas M. Moore, 1895.

At the first election under the city charter, held April 14, 1873, Dr. Ayerigg was elected mayor, together with the following councilmen: Henry Frain, Peter Molloy and Thomas R. Watson from the first ward; J. Morgan Howe, R. Burnett Smith and Benjamin F. Popple, from the second ward; John S. Conklin, George McLean and Levi B. Seaman from the third ward. All solid substantial men. The mayor and council met for organization April 21st when the mayor nominated: John Dufus, clerk; E. K. Halsted, treasurer; Moses A. Sutherland (a partner of Mr. Strange above spoken of as deputy), surveyor; George W. Conkling, superintendent of streets; Thomas M. Moore, counsel; Dea-





TOWN HALL, 1872-1894. FIRE HOUSE, 1872 TO DATE (1922)



ERIE RAILWAY STATION, PASSAIC, 1922





con A. E. Miller, pound master. At the general election, John T. Van Iderstine had been elected sole assessor; Joseph B. Knight, collector, and various persons elected to minor offices, all being reported at this meeting. All nominations were confirmed, excepting that of clerk, of which there was pressing need as Mr. Newell, now postmaster, had resigned March 3, since which time Dr. Ayerigg (councilman then) performed the duties of clerk, and in whose handwriting the minutes are from March 3 to April 9. Michael Beirne, bookkeeper for the Watsons, at the instance of Thomas R. Watson, acted as clerk from April 10 to June 9, when John Duffus became clerk and served until October 20, when he was forced to resign for refusal to file a security bond. Michael Beirne was again nominated and confirmed October 27, 1873, serving most intelligently and efficiently until succeeded by James K. Norton, Democrat, in 1880.

The village, having purchased the old Methodist church, now the site of the Municipal Building, corner of Howe avenue and Prospect street, the council removed thither at the beginning of the year 1873. Th purchase price was \$8,000, and repairs and alterations cost \$2,225. The first public function held in the new Town Hall, as it was called, was the reception and collation tendered Company K of the Ninth Regiment of the New York State National Guard, which with its famous band and headed by our old friend (now brigadier-general) Bird W. Spencer, arrived in Passaic, at noon, on April 19, 1873, was received by President Terhune and addressed by Mayor-elect Ayerigg, and his defeated opponent, Charles M. K. Paulison. After the luncheon, the company formed in line, was inspected by the president, mayor and councilmen from the balcony in front of the Hall, and paraded down Main avenue to Passaic street, Columbia avenue and Washington place, where in front of the Lyccum the band exhibited its proficiency.

Dr. Ayerigg's management of affairs gained for him the confidence of the voters, and he was re-elected twice. He was a man of no pretensions, and made no attempt to court favor of politicians. He acted conservatively on all public matters and tried to economize in every way.

General Bird W. Spencer was elected mayor in April, 1879, and appointed James A. Norton clerk, whose books and papers were like his face, linen and eye glasses—immaculate, while he carefully observed Heaven's first law. The mayor was an astute politician, who failed to reappoint Lawyer Moore city counsel, preferring James E. Stoutenburgh, a newcomer, because he was a better politician and vote getter. Mayor Spencer was looking ahead, and in order to strengthen his fences had appointed Mr. Norton, (who was a Democrat controlling not a few votes), besides caring for the soreheads—Independents. In 1881 he had great trouble in securing re-election. Republicans now criticized the appointment of any but a strong, active party man to fill any office.





But the mayor was firm and adhered to his policy. This was the beginning of his troubles and enemies appeared who put forth great efforts to defeat him for another nomination should he attempt it. He did attempt it, in a fight that was fierce, ferocious and bitter. But he secured it. George Denholm, a rock-ribbed, dyed-in-the-flesh, life-long Republican was nominated on a Citizens' ticket, in opposition. The contest was a bitter one, and although Denholm had the support of a majority of his party, Mr. Spencer's friendship for the Democrats and Independents redounded to his benefit, and with their help he was elected the second term. But troubles of which he never dreamed awaited him, and which originated because Denholm's friends claimed that Spencer was not elected by fair, legal methods. While Spencer had heard this rumor he presumed that it would end in, simply, talk. But he found otherwise very soon. Up to this time the mayor had no office, performing his work usually at the City Clerk's desk or at home. Mayor Spencer decided to establish his office in one corner of the clerk's office, but was prevented by the council, who informed him that while he could come and go in the City Hall and clerk's office at pleasure, he would not be permitted to appropriate any portion of either for his personal use. Determined to have an office, the mayor rented one in what is now the Berdan building, corner of Main avenue and Washington place, where he placed a sign, "Mayor's Office," paying rent of the same one year, when the Council relaxed and permitted him to use the clerk's office.

In order to prove that his second election had been secured by fair and legal means, because of his popularity, Mr. Spencer for the third time secured a nomination in March, 1883, against that of Gersham Rusling, Democrat, an agent for a wholesale grocer who had, for a dozen years, been identified with politics and business here, was extensively known and had many friends with whom, and their friends, he was very popular. He took the nomination as a joke, as did most of his party, so that no particular efforts were put forth for his election, of which even a little might have secured his election, as Mr. Spencer won by only twenty-three majority. During his third term the hatred of all his enemies passed away except that of John B. Pudney, who had been treasurer during Spencer's first term, and hated the very sight of the mayor. One day as Mr. Pudney was walking on Passaic avenue, he was informed that "there comes the mayor in his coach." Immediately Mr. Pudney turned his back, folded his arms and waited until the mayor had passed before facing about. Upon another occasion, seeing the mayor coming his way in his Victoria, Mr. Pudney hastily opened, went inside of, and closed a friendly door, nearby, and remained behind the door until the mayor had passed. He became friendly afterwards.

As there had been criticisms of the high salaries paid to officers, including \$400 to the treasurer, the mayor promised reductions, and with that end in view appointed Richard Outwater treasurer at an annual



salary of \$1.00. Mr. Outwater served from May 9, 1881, to June 12, 1883. To the surprise of everybody but his political friends, Mr. Outwater in 1889 started suit in the Supreme Court to recover \$833.33 salary for the period he had served, and won. The court held that there could be no valid agreement to serve for less or more than the salary fixed by ordinance, to which the person elected was entitled. To agree to anything else would be an attempt to abrogate the law, which the party had not the power to accomplish.

John A. Willett, Democrat, in 1885 succeeded Mr. Spencer as mayor, serving only one term. The next year, 1886, Mr. Spencer returned to the council, of which he had been a member from 1876 to 1879, retiring then only to become mayor. He served as councilman from the Third Ward from 1886 until 1895. At the end of this last term he gave a farewell dinner to emphasize, as he there said, his retirement from the political field. And yet fate decreed that he should be the last city mayor in 1909 which, as he said then and says today, he was compelled to accept "because of the rotten condition of the affairs of the city, which I wanted corrected."

In 1887, Dr. Charles M. Howe, one of Passaic's best men, who had resided here from a lad, was elected to succeed Mr. Willett. The Doctor had represented the Second Ward in the council from 1879 to 1882, and from the experience thus gained in addition to the interest he had always taken in the affairs of the city, qualified him for the office, which he filled so satisfactorily that he was re-elected almost without opposition in 1889, and the taxpayers, realizing the benefits of his administration re-elected him again in 1899. During his regime Dr. Howe was the mayor, which is more than may be said of other mayors.

Walston R. Brown was elected mayor in 1891. It was during his term that the city acquired the beautiful City Hall property, the fairest of any in the land. Upon the expiration of his term, he was, in 1893, re-elected in the hottest campaign ever conducted in the city. His opponent, John J. Slater, had received the Republican nomination, which Brown repudiated by securing an Independent nomination indorsed by the Democrats and was elected. It was said that the contest was engendered by the opposing banks—the National (Slater's) and Peoples (Brown's) to secure the city's deposits.

The most strenuous and exciting ward campaigns ever held in the city was the one for councilmen of the Second Ward in 1891. William W. Scott, backed by many of the strongest Republicans, won at the primary over Thomas R. Watson, who had been in the council since 1871, and was considered too strong for any man to beat. ("Scott Scotched Watson," was the News' headline). Dissatisfied with the result he then allied himself with the Democrats, who put forth ex-Postmaster Adrian Norman, a Grand Army man and very popular with all classes. But at the election, as reported in the "Daily News," "Scott





Scotched Norman, too." This was the only time that Watson was ever defeated.

In 1895 Andrew McLean and former Councilman Frederick C. Streckfuss contended for the mayoralty nomination. Two hours before the primary, all signs pointed to Streckfuss, who felt sure of nomination. In those two hours, Jacob Van Nordt, chosen freeholder and subsequently a candidate for sheriff, succeeded in winning enough of Streckfuss men to give McLean the nomination by a few votes. There was much dissatisfaction and threats were made to have the votes of the first ward thrown out. But all ended in talk. Mr. McLean was re-elected in 1897. He was careful in all that he did, and being a man of experience in business and possessing excellent judgment, he was able to render most satisfactory service.

During Mr. McLean's first term in 1895, there was a deadlock in the council over the election of a presiding officer, which continued for months until the next election in 1896, when John J. Slater, who had been treasurer, 1889-1892, was elected councilman-at-large, and became the presiding officer. He had been opposed, in the election, by Bird W. Spencer, who was supposed to have retired from politics on and after that farewell dinner referred to above, which, as now appeared, was a rash act. The great popularity of Dr. Howe was not dimmed by his retirement, during which it had grown owing to the fact that the voters were of the opinion that he could administer the government best of all, and in 1899 he was again elected. His administration was again so satisfactory as to result in his re-election in 1901. At the expiration of his term he was forced to refuse a re-election because of his private and other business affairs. He was succeeded in 1903 by David Greenlie, who had served a term as councilman from the Third Ward, to which he was elected in 1898. As mayor, he conducted public affairs so well as to merit a re-election in 1905.

In 1907 Frederick R. Low, who had been president of the council, was elected mayor. He also made a good record for efficiency and careful management, and finished his term with honors, to be succeeded in 1909 by Brigadier-General Bird W. Spencer, who has the distinction of having been the last mayor under the city charter government. The following is a list of the most important city officers:

CLERKS—Thomas Newell (Village Clerk), 1872-73; John Duffus, 1873; Michael Bierne, 1873-80; James A. Norton, 1880-83; Walter Finch, 1883-85; Francis C. Cogan, 1885-91; Richard B. Tindall, 1891-1903; Thomas R. Watson, 1903-14; Zabriskie A. Van Houten, 1914-22; Arthur D. Bolton, 1922.

COLLECTORS OF TAXES—Joseph B. Knight; David Campbell, Jr., to 1886; Leonard L. Grear, 1886-95; Albert T. Zabriskie, 1895-1908; J. Hosey Osborn, 1908-12; Arthur D. Bolton, 1912-18; Tony Frylinck, 1918.

COUNSELS—T. M. Moore, 1873-4-5, 1877; James E. Stoutenburgh, 1876-7 and 1878-87; George P. Rust, 1887-94; A. Stearns KilGour, 1894; William W. Scott



(ad interim 1895); Walter Kip, 1895-99; A. D. Sullivan, 1899-1911; Henry C. Whitehead, (ad interim, 1911); Albert O. Miller, 1911.

**TREASURERS**—E. K. Halsted, 1873-75; Hiram G. Herrick, 1875-77; John B. Pudney, 1877-80; Richard Outwater, 1880-83; Benjamin E. McGrew, 1883-89; John J. Slater, 1889-92; Harry Meyers, 1892-93; Charles M. Wilcox, 1893-96; William Malcolm, 1896-1903; John E. Ackerman, 1903-11; Harry J. Ketcham, 1911 to April, 1921, when he resigned and the office combined with that of comptroller, which was created when commission government went into effect.

**COMPTROLLERS**—Zabriskie A. Van Houten, 1912-1914; John H. Woods, 1914-1918; Arthur D. Bolton, 1918.

**OVERSEERS OF POOR**—Daniel De Vries, 1880-81; William R. Powell, 1881-82; C. P. Strayer, 1882-90; Richard V. Crawbuck, 1890-92; Francis C. Cogan, 1892-95; Daniel Fogarty, 1895-1901; Henry H. Hutton, 1902-1910; James H. Roscoe, 1911-14; John R. Meader, 1915; James H. Donnelly, 1916.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS**—George W. Conkling, 1873-75; John I. Ackerman, 1875-78; John T. Van Iderstine, 1878-79; John Van Blarcom, 1879-80; H. M. Post, 1880-82; Cornelius Hasbrouck, 1882-83; Joseph Adams, 1883-84; Patrick McGuire, 1884-85; Phineas N. Jewett, 1885-89; Frank Kastell, 1889-93; Thomas Giblin, 1893-1900; John Schilstra, 1901-1911; Edward J. Levendusky, 1912; Arthur Reid, 1913.

**POLICE JUSTICES**—James A. Norton, 1884-88; John B. Pudney, 1889-90; Richard Morrell, 1890-92; Edward C. Moore, 1892-94; George H. Dalrymple, 1894-1910; Thomas P. Costello, 1910.

Every man has shown a peculiar aptitude for the position, but it remained for the last two to make a study of the problems presented.

**CITY SURVEYORS**—Moses A. Sutherland, 1873-75; Stuart Lindsley, 1875-77; Walter L. Finch, 1877-79; Henry Fulton, 1879-81; John Hemion, 1881-84; Dr. Richard A. Terhune, 1884-89. Neither of the two last named was a surveyor. They were dummies, the work being done by John S. Strange, an Englishman, who was not a citizen here. Colin R. Wise, 1889-1906; Anton L. Pettersen, 1906-11; John A. Doolittle, 1911-12; Colin R. Wise, 1912.

**CITY PHYSICIANS**—Dr. Frank H. Rice, 1883-93; Dr. William H. Carroll, 1893-95; Dr. Percy H. Terhune, 1895-97; Dr. A. Ward Van Riper, 1897-1902; Dr. David R. Crounse, 1902-1808; Dr. Gerard J. Van Schott, 1908.

The records from 1873 to 1880 do not always state the portion of the city from which councilmen were elected, and to avoid errors it has been thought best to give a separate list of the members for that period, although in most cases it is known what wards they represented.

**Council of 1873**—John S. Conkling, Henry Frain, J. Morgan Howe, George McLean, Benjamin F. Popple, Peter Malloy, R. Burnett Smith, Levi B. Seaman, Thomas R. Watson, John F. Barkley.

**Council of 1874**—Frain, Malloy, Watson, Barkley, H. M. Atkinson, Clarkson S. Coon, William H. Jackson, T. B. Stewart, Edmund Speer.

**Council of 1875**—Speer, A. N. Ackerman, W. H. Harris, Garret Van Iderstine, Robert Foulds, Abel Horton, H. P. Simmons, Levi H. Aldous, John Kennell.

**Council of 1876**—Foulds, Horton, Harris, Kennell, Speer, G. D. Bogart, R. Outwater, Bird W. Spencer, James Wright.

**Council of 1877**—Bogart, Kennell, Spencer, Speer, Popple, John Bakelaar, Leroy W. Filkins, J. A. Willett.

**Council of 1878**—Popple, Spencer, Speer, Willett, Aldous, Frain, Henry Biegel, Patrick S. Galvin, L. E. Ronk.

**Council of 1879**—Galvin, Horton, Gershom, Rusling, S. J. Post, Andrew Foulds, Charles M. Howe, B. B. Aycrigg, W. H. Beam, John M. Morse.





A list of members by wards is given below since 1880 to 1912. Some names will be found in the same year as representing both the First and Fourth Wards. This is due to the partition of the First Ward in 1887. The roster is as follows:

Councilmen-at-Large—John J. Slater, 1896-98; Edward W. Gardner, 1898-1900; F. C. Streckfuss, 1901-04; Low, 1905-6; Bateman, 1907-8; Henderson, 1909-11.

First Ward—Patrick S. Galvin, 1879-81; S. J. Post, 1879-81; Washington A. Harris, 1880-82; George Rettinger, 1881, 1886-89; Martin Costello, 1881, 1891-93; William Burgoyne, 1882-87; George H. Ackerman, 1882-84; Thomas Cogan, 1882-89; Christian Van Heest, 1883-84; William Rushmer, 1885-88; Edward Hogan, 1888-91; John A. Lynch, 1887-89; Timothy Haggerty, 1889-95; Francis McGuire, 1891-94; John J. Welsh, 1892-1902; Robert J. Wall, 1894-97; John J. Hogan, 1895-98; Owen J. Purcell, 1897-99; Carl H. A. Rice, 1897-1900; John King, 1899-1900; James King, 1902-1905; Christopher J. Lane, 1902-1912; Michael J. Rean, 1903-1909; John J. Welsh, 1906-09; Edward Levendusky, 1910-12; John J. Labash, 1910-12.

Second Ward—Charles M. Howe, 1879-82; Florence Mahoney, 1880-82; Clarkson S. Coon, 1880-83; Walter H. Finch, 1881-83; Moses E. Worthen, 1883-87; Cornelius Van Riper, 1883-85; Thomas R. Watson, 1885-91, 1899; Walston R. Brown, 1886-89; Nelson Stoddard, 1887-90, 1894-97; George P. Swain, 1889-95; James H. Roscoe, 1890-93; William W. Scott, 1891-94; Richard D. Gatter, 1893-96; Watson A. Bogart, 1895-98; Hamilton K. Beatty, 1896-99; Robert M. Offord, 1897-1900; John H. Doremus, 1899-1902; Thomas R. Watson, 1899-1902; Marinus J. Coman, 1901-1909; William L. Hammond, 1902-1908; Timothy C. Lucas, 1903-06; Garret Roosman, 1906-12; Robert D. Benson, 1908-12; Edward N. Kevitt, 1909-12; Fred M. Bredin, 1911-12.

Third Ward—John M. Morse, 1879-82; William S. Guterrez, 1880; Frank T. Newell, 1880-81; Andrew Z. Terhune, 1881-83; James K. Knowlden, 1881-86; Edmond Speer, 1882-85; Wichham T. McCrea, 1883-88; Frank Kastell, 1884-87; Bird W. Spencer, 1886-95; Lyman S. Andrews, 1887-90; Dr. John A. Hegeman, 1888-94; William L. Clark, 1890-93; Cornelius Kevitt, 1893-99; John A. Parker, 1894-1900; Edward W. Gardner, 1895-98; David Greenlie, 1897-1902; Matthew Geene, 1899-1902; Thomas Foxhall, 1901-1904; Alexander Henderson, 1902-05; George K. Rose, 1903-06; John H. Osborn, 1904-09; Perley M. Berry, 1905-1908; Herman Friend, 1906-10; Harry Schleich, 1907-09; Myron B. Matthews, 1909-12; Arthur P. Jackson, 1909-1912; Edward A. Greene, 1910-12.

Fourth Ward—Frederick S. Dates, 1887-90; George Rettinger, 1887-89; William Rushmer, 1887-92; Christian Huber, 1888-97; William H. Lord, 1890-93; Edward J. Atkins, 1892-93; Frederick C. Streckfuss, 1892-95; John Hamilton, 1893-99; Aaron Keviee, 1895-98; William H. Hornbeck, 1897-1900; John O'Leary, 1898-1901; Harry F. Schleich, 1899-1909; Fred P. Low, 1901-04; Samuel Mulloy, 1902-06; Joseph Spitz, 1904-08; Robert E. Calliman, 1906-1910; Hugh Waters, 1908-12; Thomas J. Walsh, 1909-12; Norman G. Darmstatter, 1910-12.





## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### INTRODUCTION OF GAS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

The introduction of gas into the village was an event of great importance, and spoke volumes for the enterprise of the men interested in the growth of the infant village which, while yet in swaddling clothes, did not have to go to the well for water, nor use a candle at bedtime, as many older cities had to do.

The work of laying pipes commenced June 10, and completed December 10, 1870, to commemorate which a public dinner was given December 13, and a grand street parade and pageant took place on the evening of December 19th, in which were many floats representing the various business places then in the village. This was no small affair, equalling that of the introduction of water.

The introduction of city water in the village was celebrated by a grand pageant participated in by all business houses, many of which had wagons and floats representing the various lines of business, while the infant fire department, in addition to its men, had the old hand engine, propelled by the men, stretched out along ropes attached to the front. This was the biggest event which up to that time, August 2, 1872, that had occurred in the village, and long remembered as the date when village water was turned on by the Acquackanonk Water Company, which through the efforts, mainly of Charles M. K. Paulison, had laid the pipes, constructed a pump house on Monroe street at the canal, and prepared a reservoir, which remains as constructed, adjoining the present City Hall, on land of Paulison leased to the company, into which water taken from the canal and Vreeland pond, was forced from the pump house through a pipe. The entire plant cost \$100,000. This little reservoir soon proved inadequate, to remedy which the Passaic Water Company of Paterson, which had secured control, laid a large water main from its reservoir, Paterson, to this city, with which connections were made, and the City Hall reservoir abandoned. Subsequently the source of supply was removed to Little Falls, where water is pumped from the Passaic river into a reservoir where it is purified and treated with chlorine.

The Acquackanonk Water Company is now owned by the New Jersey General Securities Company, which supplies water to Passaic, Paterson, Clifton and Montclair. In September, 1920, Passaic offered the Securities Company \$500,000 for all pipes and other property in the city, which offer received no attention, but instead the company offered to sell all its property in all of the above mentioned cities for \$9,310,542, which was too high a figure to be accepted, and it is likely that the several cities will institute proceedings to condemn.



In 1900, because of poor quality of water, low pressure and high rate, the Citizens' Water Company was incorporated, which, by ordinance of the city council, was granted permission to operate in the city, after a determined fight on the part of the old company. The ordinance was passed February 5, 1900, vetoed by the mayor on the 15th, but passed over the veto on the 19th. The water was to be supplied by artesian wells and furnished to customers at materially reduced rates from those of the old company. But nothing was done, and the new company existed only in name, no attempt having been made to do business.

The water now supplied by the old company is good, equaling that of any city. The contemplated growth of the cities referred to will, in a few years, require more water than the Passaic river will be able to supply, to forestall which the state has already placed the matter in the hands of its Conservation of Water Supply Department, which is now constructing the great Pompton reservoir, twelve miles long, in the Wynockie valley, receiving the waters from the Pequannoc and Ramapo rivers and other streams, thereby storing millions of gallons of waters which are now wasted and lost and thereby not only conserving water, but preventing damages resulting from floods and freshets which very often have proved very disastrous to life and property.

The water used in Passaic is from a pumping station at Little Falls, which, with the water mains leading to, and in the streets of Passaic and Clifton, are owned by the General Security Company, owner of the stock of Acquackanonk Water Company, which first introduced water in this city, back in 1870. The General Security Company offered, in 1921, to sell its entire water plant, consisting of the Little Falls pumping station and filtration works, the pipe lines, to the various communities which supplies Paterson, Clifton, Passaic, Montclair, Nutley, Kearny, Harrison, East Newark and Bayonne, for \$10,687,000. This is the 1912 State appraisal figure, plus additions, and minus accrued depreciation to date.

The plan is for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission to purchase the plant as the agent for Passaic, Clifton and Paterson, the commission to then supply water to these cities, administering the plant for the joint account of them. A twenty-five-year sinking fund would be established. Pipes in the streets of each city would be conveyed to the city. A joint conversion of all pipes from the municipal limits of Clifton to the main conduit at Brookdale would be made to Clifton and Passaic. Any community desiring to join later could do so upon equitable terms.

The pipes in Passaic's streets are valued at \$700,000 by Mr. Shererd; the pipe line from the limits to Brookdale, to be held jointly by Clifton and Passaic, at \$110,000. The remainder of the property not conveyed to either of the cities is valued at \$6,837,000. Each city would receive water from the Water Supply Commission and disburse it.





In the beginning it is estimated the Commission would operate at a profit to each city, Passaic's share being \$11,000 per year. If it were necessary in the future to go for a new supply, two plans could be followed:

Pipe line from Little Falls to a new intake at Mountain View, this intake in turn to be supplied by a new reservoir at Millington, farther up, and the water to be carried from Mountain View to Little Falls by pipe line. The other:

Go direct to the Wanaque reservoir and pipe water to Little Falls or Mountain View.

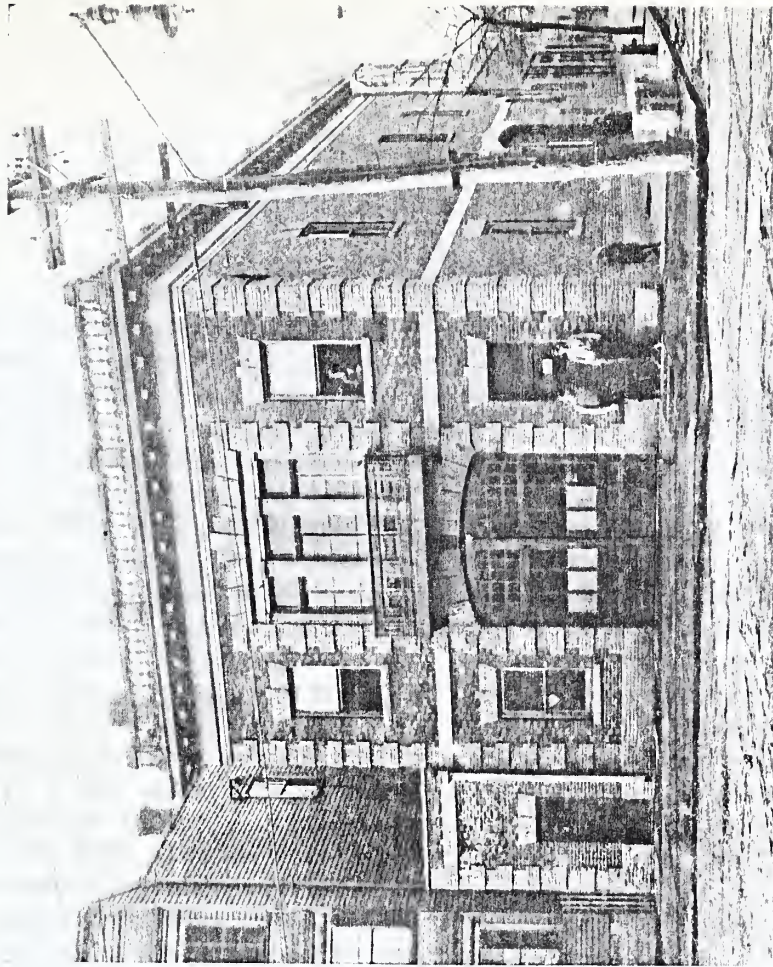
The former would cost Passaic approximately \$1,100,000; the latter would cost all cities approximately \$14,000,000 counting in part cost of the Wanaque reservoir, or \$1,500,000 to Passaic, counting the principal, interest and sinking fund charges. This plant would be operated at an annual deficit of \$750,000—Passaic's share \$90,000.

Another plan theoretically possible is to condemn the pipes in the streets, and then erect an independent pumping station and filtration plant at Little Falls. The estimated cost of this plan is \$18,000,000—Passaic's share, \$4,500,000. The deficit would be \$1,000,000—Passaic's share, \$125,000.

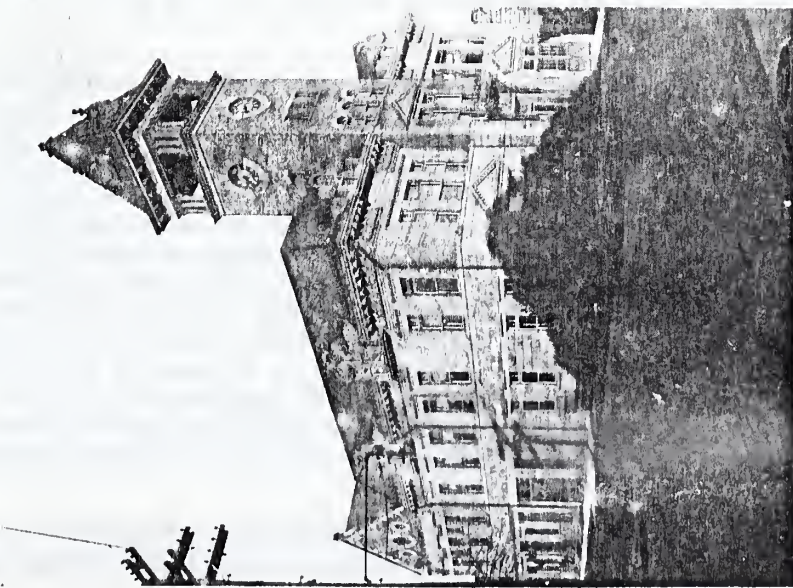
In the meantime the North Jersey Water Supply Commission was constructing the Wanaque reservoir at Midvale, at the expense of Newark, which is putting up the money for the commission which is doing the work. The sixty-five feet high dam now building will form a reservoir six miles long, capable of storing fifty millions of gallons for daily use at present, by Newark, Paterson, Passaic and Clifton. In a short time more will be needed, to acquire which (making a total of eighty millions of gallons daily), it would be necessary to add seventeen feet to the height of the dam. Newark, however, will not agree to pay anything more, and at this writing it is up to the other cities to decide. If this is done they will be assured of water for fifty years. The results will be for future historians to describe and dwell upon at length.

The electric light was used for the first time in Passaic in the Dundee Woolen Company's mill on the evening of April 29, 1881. The first private residence to have the electric light in our city was that of William W. Scott, at 60 Grove street, on Friday evening, February 22, 1889. But it took eight years longer for the public to secure confidence, and two years more before they began to put it to general use.





FIRE ENGINE No. 3, PASSAIC



MUNICIPAL BUILDING, FIRE ENGINE No. 1 AND  
TRUCK No. 2, PASSAIC





## CHAPTER XXXV.

### PASSAIC FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Immediately after our Civil War there was an infusion of new blood in old "Quacknic," when there came and settled a select class of discerning people, hailing from New York and Brooklyn, many of them born "down East." Fortunately for the village, they were a particular people, who were far from satisfied with the condition of material things that had been good enough for the older residents during the past century. They first asked for sidewalks, and got them in 1866. The next year they wanted streets improved, and a law was enacted, enlarged in 1868, empowering them to do it. These started the growth of the village and many houses were erected, to protect which these newcomers conceived fire protection a necessity. The subject was discussed for six months after the passage of the law first referred to, which failed to provide for a fire department. Instead of waiting for the enactment of an enabling act, it was at a casual gathering of men at the real estate office of S. B. Frits, agreed that William A. Willard, there present, should send notices to a select number of men, of a meeting in that office October 26, 1868. The notices were sent and meeting held, when—But let the minutes themselves reveal what was done. They were written on one sheet of foolscap paper, which is still in the possession of Ex-Chief Otto Smith, who is in possession of more original data of the fire department and knows more of its historic details than any other person. The following are the minutes of the first meeting, October 21st, 1868:

At a meeting held at S. B. Frits' office on Monday evening, the 21st instant, Washington Harris in the chair, it was resolved to form ourselves into a hook and ladder, and bucket company and also a fire association. At an election held at the same time for officers, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer were elected. A committee of three was appointed to wait upon the officers elected and notify them of their election, the committee to report back at the next meeting. And also a resolution was made that anyone wishing to become a member of this company should be proposed at a meeting and elected at the next regular meeting. After appointing an investigation committee and a committee on By-Laws the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on Friday, the 30th instant.

The following are the names of the committees and officers: O. D. Baldwin, president; S. B. Frits, vice-president; W. A. Willard, secretary; Abel Horton, treasurer. Committee on By-Laws, David Post, William F. Childs, and A. L. Crawford. Investigating Committee, David Post, William H. Nutley, William F. Childs.  
D. H. SPEER, Sec'y pro tem.

The spirit of enterprise here shown was reflected in the passage of the following act of the legislature on March 9, 1869:





An Act to Incorporate the Passaic Fire Association of the village of Passaic, in the county of Passaic and state of New Jersey.

WHEREAS, a number of citizens of the village of Passaic, in the county of Passaic and state of New Jersey, have associated themselves together under the name of "The Passaic Fire Association," for the protection of the lives and property of their fellow citizens from destruction and loss by fire; and whereas, the said citizens believing they would be advantaged by having an enactment from the legislature of this state conferring the powers of a corporation upon them, respectfully ask that the same may be granted them; therefore,

1. BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That Abel Horton, Samuel B. Fritz, Andrew W. A. Hennion, Thomas B. Stewart, Washington Harris, William F. Childs, and all such other citizens of the village of Passaic, not exceeding five hundred in number, as now are or hereafter shall become associates of "The Passaic Fire Association," of the village of Passaic, and their successors, be and they are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate, in fact and in law, by the name of "The Passaic Fire Association."

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said corporation by such name shall have perpetual succession, and be a body politic and corporate in law, capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, defending and being defended in all courts of judicature whatsoever, and that they and their successors respectively, may have and use a common seal, and have power to make, change, and alter the same at their pleasure, and by their common seal may enter into and execute any contracts, agreements, conveyances, indentures or covenants, touching and concerning the objects of said corporation, and shall have full power and authority to acquire, purchase and hold real estate, suitable and convenient for the erection of an engine house, or engine houses, not to exceed in value the sum of ten thousand dollars, and to make and adopt such by-laws and regulations for their government, not inconsistent with the laws of this state or of the United States as they may think proper.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the capital stock of said company shall not exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars, which shall be solely and exclusively applied to the procuring, building, repairing and maintaining engines, hose, buckets, and other implements and machines, engine house or engine houses and the lands whereon the same shall or may be located or erected, and to such other incidental expenses as shall to the said company appear best calculated to secure the lives and property of the citizens of Passaic from injury or destruction by fire.

4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said company shall have power to elect annually a president out of their own body, and such other officers and assistants as they shall find necessary for conducting their affairs according to their constitution, and that the said president shall keep in his custody the common seal of the said company, and at the expiration of his term of office shall deliver it over to his successor.

The object of the Fire Association was to enlist citizens in the fire service, not necessarily as active firemen, but as contributors to the fire fund. The initiation fee was fixed at \$1.00 and dues fifty cents per month. Most of the meetings were held during the first year in a private school maintained by A. W. A. Hennion at the corner of Passaic and Prospect streets. Mr. Hennion acted as secretary for a while.

At the close of the first year of the Fire Association, in October, 1869, a proposition was made to form a fire engine company and, after



a great deal of discussion, it was agreed to, Passaic Engine Company No. 1 was the result. It was established on November 1, 1869. Edward Morrell was the first foreman and William F. Childs the first assistant foreman. Of the original members of the Engine Company, ex-Chief Otto Smith and ex-City Clerk Cogan are the only ones who still remain on the active list. One of the original conditions of membership was that none but the members of the Fire Association could belong to the Engine Company, but the Fire Association members need not necessarily be active firemen. The initiation fee of the association was raised to three dollars, and preparations were made at once to provide Engine Company No. One with a hand engine. Enough money was collected and accumulated from the dues of the association to buy the hand engine on December 15th, just six weeks after the formation of the engine company, and fifteen days after, it had procured its engine. Waterhouse's big (wooden) woolen mill, which occupied the site of the present brick structure on Passaic street, near the Dundee canal, caught fire and was destroyed. Though the firemen had their hand engine ready, they were without hose, and while they fought the fire with buckets only, their engine lay idle in Robert Foulds's barn on Paulison avenue. There was no city water service in Passaic at that time—1870.

The necessity for better fire fighting appliances, as exhibited at the Waterhouse fire, stimulated the desire of the people to equip the fire department with a hose carriage and hose. This fire also served to so increase the patronage of a fair for the firemen's fund, then in progress, that the net proceeds amounted to \$1,000. The fire engine house was a very modest structure. It stood near the site of the present postoffice, in the rear of Nos. 163, 165 Prospect street, and 152 feet from that street, and measured eighteen feet wide, facing the street, sixty-two feet long, and twelve feet high at the eaves. There were five windows on each side and two in the rear, each two and one-half feet by four and one-half feet. In the front were a pair of large doors for the machines, to the left of which was a door two and one-half feet by seven feet, and was begun directly after the formation of the engine company. It was agreed among the members that each should contribute at least two days' labor and thus construct the building themselves. The building, if such it may be called without exaggeration, was under way during the holidays of 1869, and the amateur carpenters, masons and laborers who worked at it, suffered greatly from the cold. Shortly thereafter a flag-pole surmounted by a fireman's hat, was erected near the north-east corner of the building.

The first fatal accident among the members of No. One occurred during the fire at "Sebastopol," a saloon occupied by James Collier (at No. 102 old Main avenue, near where the Exempt Firemen's Association was later located). There Cornelius Norman, brother of the late





ex-Postmaster Norman, met his death. Young Norman was vainly trying to check and guide the engine when he was wedged against the building. He was exceedingly popular as a fireman and citizen and the entire town was in mourning at his funeral, Sunday, September 13th, 1870.

During the year 1871 internal dissensions arose in the ranks of Engine Company No. One, and the result was the formation of the Truck Company. It had its formal inception in the following self-explanatory communication:

To the Officers and Members of the Passaic Engine Co. No. 1.

Gents:—We, the undersigned members of your company, having known for some time, that the feelings existing towards us by the majority of the members of your Company, have not been friendly to us or conducive to peace and harmony in our meetings, and knowing that such feelings are gaining strength every day, and that the desire to oppose any and all measures that we think for the interest of this Company, simply because they emanate from us, has led us to take what peaceful measures we can to rid your Company of our baneful influence and thereby restore the peace and harmony that should exist among you. We therefore respectfully request your body to accept our resignations as members of this company and with our best wishes for your welfare and the hope that this Company may be as successful in the future as in the past, we subscribe ourselves, Your friends, (Signed), R. B. Tindall, R. B. Smith, J. A. Rhodes, C. E. Horton, W. J. Cooper, J. McGregor, Wm. F. Childs. Dec. 18th, 1871.

The Rescue Hook and Ladder Company had the same relations as Engine Company No. One with the Fire Association and the treasury of the organization was drawn upon to help purchase a truck and bucket outfit. Subscriptions were also solicited. The largest individual subscription for this purpose, \$150, was made by the late Mrs. Jane Ayerigg. The truck was purchased and brought to the engine house, which was not wide enough to permit removal of either machine hurriedly. It was then for the first time that an appeal was presented to the village council for a place in which to house the fire apparatus, which resulted in the purchase June 1st, 1872, of the Methodist church property at a total cost of \$12,050, to which the engine and truck were transferred the 27th day of the same month. The old building was then sold to the owner of the land upon which it stood where it served the purposes of a stable until torn down in 1899.

On Friday, August 2, 1872, an event of paramount importance to the city and Fire Department occurred. It was the celebration of the completion of the city water service provided by the Acquackanonk Water Company.

The Truck and Bucket outfit and No. One hand engine served the purpose of the Fire Department until July 4th, 1873. In April of that year, the city of Passaic was incorporated and the village government was succeeded by the mayor and council. One of the first steps taken by the new municipality was to purchase the equipments for the inde-



pendent fire department. Then the two fire companies were mustered into the service of the city. Abel Horton, variously termed "Pop" and "Father of the Fire Department," was president of the Fire Association at the time of the transfer. The fire fighting apparatus belonging to the two companies had previously been appraised and bought by the city for the sum of \$1,800. Of course the apparatus remained with the fire companies, but ever afterwards as the property of the city of Passaic. The original notification of the mustering in of Engine Company No. One into the city service, still in the possession of ex-Chief Otto Smith, reads as follows:

City Clerk's Office, Passaic, Nov. 11, 1873.

Mr. Otto Smith and Cosigners of Memorial,

Gentlemen:—Your memorial laid before the City Council of the City of Passaic on Monday evening, the 11th instant, contained a tender of your services as firemen to the city authorities and in event of acceptance your willingness to reorganize under such rules and regulations as the Board of Council may ordain.

It is with pleasure that I am able to inform you, gentlemen, that the Board of Council has received your memorial and accepted the terms therein offered.

I remain, Gentlemen, with greatest respect, Yours truly,

MICHAEL BEIRNE, City Clerk.

The White Zephyr Hose Company was organized December 8, 1873, of which the name was changed to McLean Hose Company and accepted by the city council March 9, 1874. Dundee Engine Company No. Two was organized January 24th, 1874, in Vanderhoven's barn, corner Passaic and First streets. Of the charter members only one remains on the active list—Henry Frain. The Dundees encountered some opposition from their fellow firemen at first and for several years was unable to elect any of its members to the position of chief or assistant chief of the department. But of later years it got a fair share of these honors. It furnished its first chief, in 1882, in the person of Michael Dooner, now deceased. John N. Meade got the honor in 1886, William L. Kane 1890, James W. Kelly 1893, James L. Costello 1896, Richard Baker 1901, 1902. There were also several assistant chiefs from Engine No. Two: John Delaney and Thomas Healion, John N. Meade, Richard Baker, James Cunningham, John J. Radcliffe and Daniel O'Shea became life members of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

In 1876 the city council erected a \$10,000 engine house at the corner of Passaic and Second streets for the company. This was subsequently sold and removal made to the present quarters on Third street.

From 1874 to 1876 a two-wheeled jumper was used. In 1886 the company got a third class Clapp & Jones engine which rendered excellent service for twenty years, and later did good service in No. Five's house, but it was considered too small for the mills and big tenement houses of Dundee and was replaced in 1906 by a second class Metropoli-





tan. The reel hose was also replaced in 1902 by a hose and chemical combination wagon.

The regular volunteer uniform of the Dundee company, a red shirt, black belt and helmet was last worn at parade and inspection in 1899. The present blue coat and fatigue cap were then adopted. Patrick McGuire, Sr., donated a horse to the company for the hose carriage from 1896 to 1901. Permanent horses were thereafter installed by the city. Joseph Greely was appointed by Mayor Low, a paid fireman, April 15th, 1908.

The Alert Hook and Ladder Company No. Two, of the Park section, known as the Bridge, was organized and accepted by the city as a company on March 18th, 1885, with the following members: Daniel A. Smith, David D. Anderson, M. B. Merriek, C. F. Wilkin, V. F. Le Quene, Chas. R. Bates, Edw. Lawrence, John J. Collins, John M. Fiske, Joseph W. Fiske, Wm. S. Gutierrez, E. A. Chasteney, Jos. R. Hawkins, Albert H. Smith, B. Greenwood, Wm. W. Neal, Albert Turner, M. B. Davis, Lyman S. Andrews, J. E. Flitercraft, Benjamin Ayerigg, Jr., C. F. Stewart, J. B. Ayerigg, Charles Ayerigg, Jr., F. Van Derlioneus, Henry Muth, John Dechert, George Muth, R. J. Burroughs, and Martin Caulfield, of whom some are yet today doing active fire duty; this company has always been known for the active part it has taken in department affairs in all its make up having had two chief engineers, namely, Thomas Foxhall and Herman F. Weber, Jr., and four assistant chief engineers, Frank Williamson, Hanford Burns, A. L. Hayward and H. F. Weber, Jr.

McLean Hose Company No. 1 was, on January 20, 1886, reorganized and named McLean Engine Company No. Three. Herman W. Schulting being its first foreman. On November 11, 1905, Howard C. Tomer, one of the members, was fatally injured answering an alarm and died from the effects of his injuries two days later.

On April 10, 1908, McLean Engine Company No. Three removed from their quarters on McLean street to their new quarters, corner Columbia avenue and Madison street. Hamilton Hose Company No. Two, was organized on Tuesday, November 8, 1894, with headquarters in an old barn on Hope avenue. The company is now at the corner of President street and Van Winkle avenue. E. Glory was the first foreman, serving from November, 1894, to December, 1895. J. S. Brown was the last foreman, serving from January 1, 1902, to June 3, 1902, when, through the efforts of a committee appointed by the company, the council passed a resolution to allow the formation of Engine Company No. Four, and turned over the old La France engine, known as No. 1, to the company, changing the name Hamilton to Howe.

Linden Hose Company No. One was organized March 15th, 1889, by some of the best known residents of Passaic, among them being Otto Laue, Anton L. Pettersen, Sigmund Rein, Captain Frederick Sparren-





berger, William Campbell, Herman Friend, Frank KilGour, D. W. Mahony and Adolph Martin. The "Lindens" were a popular company and were enthusiastic in everything they undertook, their invitations were sought after for all their entertainments, and on account of their appearance they earned the title "Kid Glove Company." In the latter part of the year 1893 dissatisfaction arose in the company caused by the election of a foreman, and after some stormy sessions the company disbanded. Some of the former members got together and reorganized the company, using the same name, which was changed in 1907, when the city council converted the hose company into an engine company and named it No. Five. Many, in fact all, of the former members have either served their time and have left the department entirely or have had their names placed on the honorary list, the oldest member at the present time being Adolph Martin, Jr.

The following, with permission of Chief Bowker, is extracted from a booklet lately prepared by him, giving in detail up-to-date facts concerning our fire department, beginning with the last days of the Volunteers:

The Fire Department at that time consisted of four steam fire engines, two hook and ladder companies and one hose company, and a personnel of 360 men, entirely volunteer. The Volunteer Fire Department of the city of Passaic was second to none—always on the job, and ever willing to serve the people when in danger; but it was the same with the Volunteer Fire Department in the city of Passaic as in all other progressive cities—the Volunteer Fire Department must sooner or later have to give way to more advanced ideas and to more scientific methods of fire-fighting; also our city was growing so rapidly and spreading out over a larger area, that naturally the fires were beginning to become more numerous, and to say the least it was expecting too much of men who had to leave their work two or three times a day at the sound of the alarm, and probably remain at a fire all day and sometimes far into the night without any compensation, so steps were taken to reorganize the Volunteer Fire Department, and this was done by ordinance on Monday, November 15, 1909, and Mr. Fred R. Low, then mayor of our city, appointed twenty-six men, including one chief and one assistant chief, to work in conjunction with the volunteers, and the following Monday—November 22, 1909—at 12 o'clock noon, Box Twenty-five was rung, signifying that the "Paid Fire Department" for the city of Passaic had been put in operation. The first appointments were as follows: Chief, Reginald H. Bowker; Assistant Chief, Walter S. Gibson.

Engine Company No. One—Paid Firemen Elmer E. Graham, William Coffey, William Fitzgerald, William Castline.

Engine Company No. Two—Paid Firemen James Cunningham, James Shea, William Nelson, Joseph Greeley.

Engine Company No. Three—Paid Firemen John T. Hyde, Philip Castline, Jacob Castline, Adolph Weidel.

Engine Company No. Four—Paid Firemen James Delaney, Andrew Maguth, Albin Thieme.

Engine Company No. 5—Paid Firemen Adolph Martin, Joseph Johnson, John Donnelly.



Hook and Ladder Company No. One—Paid Firemen Thomas Hutchinson, P. Spencer Pearl, John Brown.

Hook and Ladder Company No. Two—Paid Firemen J. W. Clemons, Alvin Hayward, Francis A. Vietch.

The first committee of the Paid Department being: Chairman, Michael J. Rean, Alexander Henderson, John J. Welch.

At this time all the apparatus was horse-drawn, and while the reorganization of the department, which had taken place before, was a step in the right direction, it soon became evident that the right thing to do, especially for a city of this size, was to establish an entirely paid Fire Department. This was done in the Spring of 1910 (General Bird W. Spencer being mayor at that time), an ordinance being passed by the city council March 10, 1910, after which the Volunteer Fire Department, which had served the city so faithfully for forty-two years, ceased to exist, and a full paid Fire Department had taken over the care of the city, ten extra men being appointed to the department at this time, making a total of thirty-six men, including officers. The first company officers to be appointed at that time were as follows: Engine Company No. One, Elmer E. Graham, captain; Engine Company No. Two, William Nelson, captain; Engine Company No. Three, J. W. Clemons, captain; Truck Company No. One, Thomas J. Hutchinson, captain; Engine Company No. One, William Fitzgerald, lieutenant; Engine Company No. Two, Joseph Greeley, lieutenant; Engine Company No. Three, James Cunningham, lieutenant; Engine Company No. Four, James Delaney, lieutenant; Engine Company No. Five, John Donnelly, lieutenant; Truck Company No. Two, Francis A. Veitch, lieutenant.

At this time automobiles were being introduced into fire departments, and the city authorities immediately saw the advisability of replacing the horse-drawn apparatus with the motor apparatus. The first piece to arrive in the city was the chief's car, and during the same year three combination wagons and two tractors for the hook and ladder trucks were purchased. This large expenditure of money created some comment, but when it was demonstrated how much more economical the motor apparatus was over the horse-drawn, and the response to alarms so much quicker, all adverse comment ceased, and within the next twelve months the entire department was motorized. The city of Passaic was the first city in the country to be entirely motorized, and officials from far and near came here and wrote to the chief for information regarding motor-drawn fire apparatus. The coming of motor fire apparatus necessitated another addition to the department, and that was the addition of a suitable machine shop. This was done, and a fine, large building was erected in Madison street, and the repair department, which at that time was under the charge of Captain P. Spencer Pearl and Lieutenant Albin Thieme, has proven the advisability of spending that amount of money to equip this shop, for it was in this department that four of the combination hose and chemical wagons and one combination hose, chemical and hook and ladder truck was built, saving the city on the four machines \$10,000; also all repairs to the apparatus and considerable of the smaller equipment is made in this shop. In 1912 the entire fire alarm system was rebuilt and most of the wires put in conduits underground; also a larger transmitter, switchboards, etc., were purchased. The remodeling of the system necessitated the placing of operators on duty at all times, and the first telegraph operators were Otto J. Smith and William Coffey; but since the two-platoon system has been in operation it has become necessary to have four operators and one substitute. At the time of organizing a paid department it was operated under the continuous twenty-four-hour plan. These long hours of confinement in a fire house were extremely trying on men and certainly caused a great amount of illness; so at the next general election, held November 5, 1918, a referendum was placed upon the ballot asking the voters of this city to grant the men the double-platoon, which was carried by the largest majority of any refer-





endum ever put up to the people of this city, and on April 15, 1919, the double shift went into effect. This necessitated the appointment of forty-three extra men. How remarkable it must seem to the older citizens of the city of Passaic, and how proud all the citizens should feel of the Fire Department, if they will just pause for a moment and consider the improvements in the department of the present day and the method of fire extinguishing over those of the time when the older citizens now living helped to organize it as a bucket brigade! All can come to but one conclusion, and that is that every dollar spent on our Fire Department is money well spent; and, everything taken into consideration and in comparison to size of cities and size of department of other cities, we can safely say that our Fire Department is second to none in the country; and while probably few citizens stop to think of such matters, the one thing the men of this department are extremely proud of is that in the eleven years of existence of the Paid Fire Department (and in that time we have been called upon to extinguish a large number of fires in some very large tenements), only one life has been lost, and that occurred July 28, 1919. It is such work that certainly speaks well for the efficiency and courage of the Fire Department of our city. In the space of eleven years' time, only three fires of very large proportions have occurred, and they were: Henry Muhs Beef and Packing establishment, on Central avenue and Monroe street, October 16, 1912. The Berdan Furniture Company, corner Washington place and Main avenue, January 19, 1916, at which time ten frame buildings and three brick buildings were destroyed. The Davison building, 59 Second street, four stores, business and tenement buildings, February 13, 1916.

From a "Fire Department of Two Companies," in 1868, it has grown to a department of eight companies with the most modern and up-to-date auto fire apparatus and a roster of ninety-three men, and to these men should be given all the praise for the protection of our city; also to our city government should be given commendation for the liberal support they have always given the department. The recommendations of the chief, when improvements are asked for, are always granted, and this is one of the main factors that makes any city department successful.

The following is a list of the chiefs of the Fire Department after the city took over the control of the department:

Edward Morrell, 1873, Engine Company No. One; Thomas Cogan, 1874, Rescue Truck No. One; R. B. Tindall, 1875-6, Rescue Truck No. One; Otto Smith, 1877, Engine Company No. One; E. Brainard, 1878, Rescue Truck No. One; Chris Huber, 1879-80-81, Engine Company No. One; M. Dooner, 1882, Engine Company No. Two; D. B. Bogart, 1883, Engine Company No. Three; H. Keummel, 1884, Engine Company No. One; E. Morrell, 1885, Engine Company No. One; J. Meade, 1886, Engine Company No. Two; Ernest Remig, 1887, Engine Company No. One; Waldo Gibbs, 1888-89, Engine Company No. One; William Kane, 1890, Engine Company No. Two; Albert Totten, 1891, Truck Company No. One; E. N. Kevitt, 1892, Engine Company No. One; James Kelly, 1893, Engine Company No. Two; Henry R. Speer, 1894, Truck Company No. One; Herman Schulting, 1895, Engine Company No. Three; James Costello, 1896, Engine Company No. Two; Thomas Foxhall, 1897, Truck Company No. 2; Reginald H. Bowker, 1898-99, Engine Company No. Three; P. V. R. Post, 1900, Truck Company No. One; Richard Baker, 1901-2, Engine Company No. 2; Fred M. Everett, 1903, Engine Company No. One.

Three months—March 4, 1903—William Fitzgerald, part of 1903 and 1904, Engine Company No. One; John Veech, 1905, Engine Company No. Three; Hugh Waters, 1906, Engine Company No. Four; Tony Frylink, 1907, Engine Company No. One; Herman Weber, 1908, Truck Company No. Two; James J. Cunningham, 1909, Engine Company No. Two.

On November 22, 1909, the Fire Department was reorganized, and



the present chief, Reginald H. Bowker, received the appointment from Mayor Fred R. Low. The following is the roster of the Fire Department:

Chief, Reginald H. Bowker; First Assistant Chief, Walter S. Gibson; Second Assistant Chief, William Nelson.

Engine One—Captain, F. Bowen, Charles Morse, M. Meade, H. Schevon, Peter Lyons, N. Pruiksma, Lieutenant A. Doremus, O. Neudeck, J. Boyko, J. Kaywood, R. Isles, J. Spirko, C. McAlevey.

Engine Two—Captain E. Graham, C. Miller, W. Green, J. Doremus, A. Hollar, M. Shea, H. Bracken, Lieutenant W. Coffey, J. Cunningham, E. Morris, R. Smith, H. Vivian.

Engine Three—Captain W. Clemons, J. Farrell, J. VanGurp, C. Ainsworth, J. Kaufmann, Lieutenant J. Willinski, C. Cowley, T. Carey, C. Mosely, J. Mayzel.

Engine Four—Captain W. Fitzgerald, H. Werling, W. Riley, G. Zeim, J. Schaub, Lieutenant J. Greeley, A. Huppert, W. Riser, G. Polinack, J. Gladis.

Chiefs' Drivers—Charles Morse, Joseph Gallagher, Otto Neudeck, Charles McAllevey.

Engine Five—Captain T. Hutchinson, M. Farrell, J. MacNeill, T. Veech, Lieutenant J. Mara, W. McCaffery, F. Kranik, J. Miller, P. Wernau.

Engine Six—Captain J. Donnelly, W. Downing, C. Smith, R. Cooper, D. Hoar, Lieutenant P. Farrell, G. Hamer, J. Wynne, G. Kelsch, A. Cohen.

Truck One—Captain P. Castline, J. Maxwell, J. Zachara, M. Reno, W. Brett, Lieutenant J. Johnson, J. Castline, J. Coyle, J. Zank, A. Sullivan.

Truck Two—Captain J. Shea, C. O'Toole, J. O'Brien, E. Lulliwitz, J. Pinquoch, Captain J. Cunningham, E. Lees, J. Gallagher, L. Costello, G. Geisert.

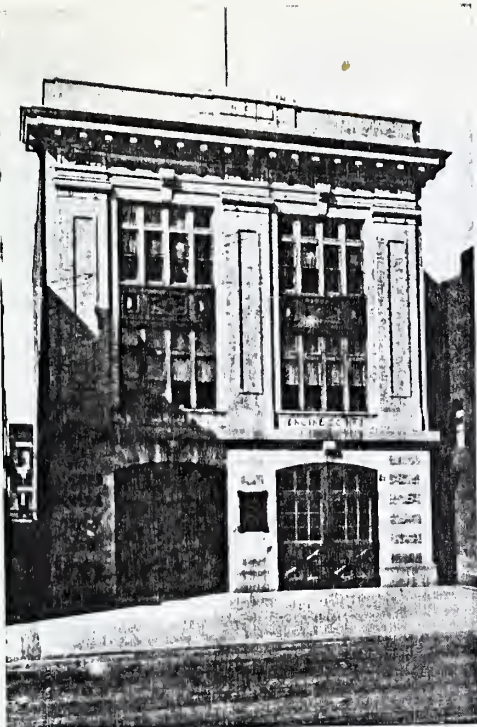
Repair Shop—Captain A. Thieme, master mechanic; Lieutenant F. Ackerman, assistant master mechanic.

Telegraph Operators—O. J. Smith, T. J. Coffey, J. A. Kelley, J. Matthews, John Boyko (extra).

Chief Bowker seems born to fill his present position, by reason of his theoretical, mechanical and practical skill coupled with a remarkable amount of executive ability. In addition he is an efficient student of everything pertaining to his department, both theoretical and practical, and is ever ready to learn all about the latest improvements in the fire fighting line, and when he is satisfied that they are the best, takes steps to have the same adopted here. He is a regular attendant upon the annual meetings of the National Association of Chiefs, whereby he is able to keep his department at some distance ahead of many others in the progressive procession. Chief Bowker not only believes in fire subjugation, but in its prevention, in proof of which he does more than talk about it; he acts. On the first of October the city was divided for fire prevention purposes, into eight sections, each in charge of the captain of the fire company located in that section, who assigns to each of his men certain streets, every building on which, inside and outwardly, all outhouses, barns, cellars, yards, etc., are carefully examined and the fire hazards of each specifically set forth on blanks for that purpose already prepared. These cards are carefully examined, and, where necessary the owner, or tenant, is notified to remedy the hazardous con-







FIRE TRUCK, No. 1, FIRE ENGINE No. 2,  
PASSAIC



FIRE ENGINE No. 4, PASSAIC



FIRE ENGINE No 5, PASSAIC



FIRE ENGINE No. 6, PASSAIC





dition of affairs. Should he fail to do so, the case is reported to the Bureau of Fire Prevention, which gives the owner, or tenant, five days' notice to comply with the previous notice of the captain, or be liable to the statutory fine of \$25. The establishment of this bureau entails no extra expense to the city, being composed of men already in the service, who, like their chief, (whom they admire and respect) are devoting their time, talents, and, if need be, their lives, to serve the city of their choice. The chief is a stickler for the best and most efficient of men with a good, clean record to stand upon. Such he has and will tolerate none other. They are a fine body of men.

In January, 1921, the new Pension Fund Commission, as created by chapter 160, of the laws of 1920: Under the provisions of this law, the treasuries of the present independent Fire and Police Pension Funds are combined, and the yearly income organization will be determined as follows:

1. The city is to pay to the treasury, each year, a sum equal to four per cent. of the total salaries paid to both departments.

2. The departments are to pay to the treasury of the commission a sum equal to two per cent. of the salaries of all the employes of the department.

3. In addition the commission is to receive all fines paid by members, all lost time pay, which is deducted from the salaries of employes, and all awards made by citizens or corporations.

4. The law also provides that in the event that the treasury is short at any time to meet its necessary debts, the amount is to be made in the current budget.

Based on the 1921 salary schedule, which City Clerk Z. A. Van Houten is to present to the commissioners for the opening budget meeting, the appropriate income of the commission will be as follows: Present amount in Fire Department fund, \$40,000. Present amount in Police Department fund, \$2,000. The new Pension Commission will start with a treasury of approximately \$42,000.

The annual income from the Fire Department based on the 1921 salary schedule will be \$8,586. The annual receipts from the police department according to the present salary schedule will be \$7,138.00. The total annual income of the commission will be approximately \$15,724.00.

To this amount must be added awards, presents, fines and pay for time lost. In the event that an increase in the pay of either department is decided upon, the amount of income will be increased in proportion. The amounts were estimated by Mr. Van Houten from the 1921 salary schedule totals, which amount, for the Police Department to \$118,970.82 and for the Fire Department, \$143,108.23.



## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The first step toward the organization of this department was taken by the village council June 6, 1870, when the committee on ordinances was directed to prepare an ordinance covering the matter, which was done, presented to the council June 13 and laid over to June 20, when it was adopted. No further action was then taken.

On September 19, 1870, a petition was presented for the appointment of two night watchmen, which received no attention. At the next meeting the committee suggested some minor changes in the previous ordinance, which were approved and adopted. At this same meeting "petition was received from many citizens praying for a police force," which the sudden growth of the village seemed to require. This was referred to the committee to report back as to the salaries to be paid. This report was made recommending that night men be paid \$50 a month and a man on duty Sundays, two dollars a day, which being satisfactory, was adopted. whereupon the president nominated John T. Vreeland and George Sexton night policemen and Joseph B. Knight, Sunday policeman. These appointments were juggled about, but never confirmed. In the meantime, Constable John A. Cadmus was acting as special officer at \$25 a month, having been delegated such, not by appointment, but by resolution of May 29, 1871. He therefore was Passaic's first policeman.

On March 25, 1872, John Knox, John Simpson and Alonzo E. Miller (familiarily known as Deacon Miller, a horseman on the order of David Harum), were appointed special officers, who with Special Officer Cadmus, were to serve at the polls on election day at nine dollars each, for all but Cadmus. His bill for nine dollars was refused payment because, as a regular officer he was being paid by the month. The council took offense at this, and within a month (April 23rd), his services were ordered terminated on April 29th, and Deacon Miller continued to serve as sole special police officer, under his appointment of March 25th until August 5, 1872, when Garret H. Oldis was nominated and confirmed as special officer. It was soon discovered that the salaries recommended by the committee of \$50 a month did not apply to special officers, but had reference, as did the ordinance, to the regular, permanent members of the force then in contemplation. To rectify this, Mr. Oldis was, on August 29, 1872, re-nominated and confirmed as (the first regular) police officer (not policeman).

At the council meeting of September 2, 1872, the committee directed that the special police officers be on duty daily from 7 a. m. to 10 p. m.; that one of them meet all Erie trains, and that one at least should





always be on duty during said hours. At this date, there being only one special officer, it became necessary to have another, to meet the above requirement of the committee, and William W. Rose, Erie agent at the Passaic Bridge (Park) station, was nominated and confirmed as a special officer, September 30, 1872. The force consisting of Oldis, the chief, and two special officers (Miller and Rose), was the entire police force when the government passed from village to city, April 2, 1873.

On April 28, John Wynne was nominated and confirmed as the first patrolman and second member of our police force. On May 5, Richard Oakes, John White and John Tyler Vreeland petitioned in vain for appointment. The latter had been nominated three years before, but not confirmed. Rose and Miller were notified that their services would terminate on May 1, 1873. Miller clung on, however, performing some duties without pay for a month longer. Badges and clubs were furnished Oldis and Wynne, under an order of July 1, 1873. A burglary having been committed, the owner being criticised for neglecting to notify the police, replied that he went to the home of Chief Oldis, whom he found "just where he ought to have been—in bed."

The council being besieged with petitions to increase the force, gave ear to the demand, and on December 22, 1873, confirmed the nominations of "Richard Oakes, of the Second Ward; Cornelius Arensman, of Frogtown, and Michael Quinn of the First Ward, as night patrolmen, whose hours are to be from 8 p. m. to 6 a. m.; Oakes to patrol the First Ward, Quinn the Second, and Arensman the Third, and to report to Chief Oldis daily at 8 p. m. and 6 a. m." In the event of sudden sickness, written notice of inability to go on duty was required to be given the mayor five hours before 8 p. m. The policemen then were paid two dollars a day, according to an ordinance concerning the same, which on May 17, 1875, was supplanted by a new ordinance making the term only one year. A law was subsequently passed fixing the term during good behaviour.

Notwithstanding the new ordinance and the favorable law, no additions were made to the force until May 7, 1876, when William Hendry and Michael Coen were nominated and confirmed.

Chief Oldis held office until death, July 10, 1884, and was succeeded by Captain Hendry, July 11, who held that office until June 1, 1918, and died on the third day of June following.

Although Officer Oldis was often called "Chief," he was in fact the captain, as the office of chief was not created until 1903. Hendry was the first actual chief.

Michael Coen was made a special officer December 29, 1873, named a patrolman at the same time as Chief Hendry and died February 23, 1906. Altogether Chief Hendry served forty-two years, during thirty-four years of which he was head of the department, assuming that role on July 11, 1884, following the death of Captain Oldis. He was the



oldest police chief in the East, both in age and point of service. He became chief when that office was created in 1903. Chief Hendry, whose only protection, when he was made a member of the force, was a big club he furnished himself, saw Passaic grow from a hamlet to a great manufacturing center of over 60,000 population. He put the lid down tight and succeeded throughout his many years of service in keeping the city clean of gambling and questionable places.

Chief Hendry maintained the same strict oversight, as is shown by the high rating Passaic received during the war from General McCann, commanding officer at Camp Merritt, who after investigation of communities in proximity to the big training and embarkation camp, said "Passaic is the cleanest town in the district."

Chief Schmidt, now serving his thirty-third year as a member of the department, was appointed a member of the police force September 10, 1888, by Mayor Charles M. Howe. His marked ability as an officer brought recognition in the way of a promotion from patrolman to captain of police on November 1, 1909, by Mayor Fred R. Low. Upon the retirement of Chief Hendry, Captain Schmidt was appointed head of the department on June 1, 1918, by Commissioner Kehoe, who regarded the genial and efficient captain very highly and considered his promotion a fitting reward for a man who served the city thirty years and maintained an unblemished and commendable record during all that time. With the confidence and faithful co-operation of every member of the department, Chief Schmidt, under the direction of Commissioner Preiskel, who in his brief term in office, has accomplished much, is perfecting one of the best departments in the country.

One of the men who probably did more than any other to assist Chief Schmidt in this direction was Captain of Police Crawbuck, next to him in line of service, having been appointed January 16, 1893. Because of his unusually good work as a patrolman he was made a detective sergeant on November 1, 1909, and when the Detective Bureau was created on September 1, 1914, he was made lieutenant of detectives. In this capacity his work attracted wide attention, and when Captain Schmidt was made chief in 1918, it was only natural that Police Commissioner Kehoe selected him to fill the vacancy. Captain Crawbuck died December 6, 1921.

Much good work in clearing up mysteries, including murders, hold-ups, burglaries and flimflam games has been done by the Detective Bureau under the direction of Captain Turner, who has been head of the bureau ever since it was created. During the greater part of the time that the United States was a participant in the World War, Captain Turner was chief inspector of the Intelligence Department at the Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, under Major Lawrence P. Dunham, and Lieutenant James F. Green headed the bureau in a most capable manner.

Much could be said about many members of the department who





have distinguished themselves in various ways, about Dick Zober, the ever ready "do it" desk sergeant; about Patrolman Edward Saathoff, who led the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association the past year, and is chairman of the committee which arranged the big convention; about the traffic officers, the mounted policemen and others, but space will not permit.

In 1908 the need of a plain clothes man became apparent and Patrolman Benjamin F. Turner was made a detective. Later he was sergeant and on September 1, 1914, the Detective Bureau was created, with Sergeant Turner assuming command with the rank of captain. Others in the bureau are Lieutenant James F. Green, Sergeants John J. Howard, Stephen L. Koren, Charles J. Monks and Thomas Kennedy, also Detectives Owen Cunningham and Edward Boyko. They are included in the roster of men in the department.

The roster of the Passaic Police Department follows:

Chief, Gustav Schmidt, appointed patrolman September 10, 1888; captain, November 1, 1909; chief, June 1, 1918.

Captains, Henry Crawbuck, appointed patrolman January 10, 1893; detective sergeant, November 1, 1908; lieutenant of detectives, September 1, 1914; captain of police, June 15, 1918, died December 6, 1921; Benjamin F. Turner, appointed patrolman, November 26, 1900; detective sergeant, September 7, 1909; captain of detectives, September 1, 1914.

Lieutenant, James F. Green, appointed March 7, 1896; detective sergeant, September 1, 1914; lieutenant of detectives, July 1, 1918.

Sergeants—Richard Zober, appointed chanceman, July 5, 1912; patrolman, October 1, 1912; sergeant, December 17, 1918. William J. Flynn, appointed patrolman, August 17, 1891; sergeant, July 1, 1916. Lambert De Groot, appointed patrolman, October 2, 1905; sergeant, July 1, 1916. Frank Vanderhoven, appointed patrolman October 2, 1905; sergeant, July 1, 1916. John J. Howard, appointed patrolman August 3, 1903; detective sergeant, July 1, 1918. Stephen L. Koren, appointed patrolman November 19, 1906; detective sergeant, July 1, 1918. Thomas F. Kennedy, appointed patrolman June 28, 1907; detective sergeant, July 1, 1918. Charles J. Monks, appointed chanceman July 1, 1913, patrolman, November 1, 1913; detective sergeant, December 24, 1918.

Patrolmen—Thomas Rutledge, appointed May 5, 1902; John Freeland, appointed May 5, 1902; Edward Saathoff, appointed August 3, 1903; Owen Cunningham, appointed October 2, 1903, detective; Martin J. Flynn, appointed May 21, 1906; Garret Eelman, appointed November 19, 1906; Jacob Troast, appointed November 19, 1906; Edward Bakelaar, appointed November 19, 1906; Nicholas De Vries, appointed April 19, 1909; John Blanda, appointed April 19, 1906; Charles Farrell, appointed April 19, 1909; John N. Meade, Jr., appointed April 19, 1909; John J. Baker, appointed April 19, 1909, dropped from roll, June 7, 1909; reappointed July 6, 1909; Patrick McCarthy, appointed July 6, 1909; James Callahan, appointed August 14, 1911; John J. Noonan, appointed August 14, 1911; William Vanderbeck, appointed August 14, 1911; Matthias Winter, appointed August 14, 1911; Patrick Fitzpatrick, appointed September 11, 1911; Andrew Nicoll, appointed September 11, 1911; John H. Troast, appointed chanceman July 1, 1912, patrolman, October 1, 1912; Antonio Ribuffo, appointed chanceman August 1, 1912, patrolman October 1, 1912; Joseph Presko, appointed chanceman August 1, 1912, patrolman October 1, 1912; Francois Frain, appointed chanceman August 1, 1912, patrolman





October 1, 1912; Tunis Van Gulick, appointed chanceman May 16, 1914, patrolman September 1, 1914; Leonard Van Houten, appointed chanceman July 1, 1915, patrolman October 1, 1915; Frank Roehrich, appointed chanceman July 1, 1915, patrolman October 1, 1915; Michael Wynne, appointed chanceman January 1, 1916, patrolman April 1, 1916; Vincent Birkhoff, appointed chanceman January 1, 1916, patrolman April 1, 1916; Daniel Hickey, appointed chanceman January 1, 1916, patrolman April 1, 1916; William McGill, appointed chanceman January 1, 1916, patrolman April 1, 1916; Andrew Supko, Jr., appointed chanceman June 1, 1916, patrolman October 1, 1916; Edward Hogan, appointed chanceman June 1, 1916; patrolman October 1, 1916; John Crawbuck, appointed chanceman June 1, 1916, patrolman October 1, 1916; William J. Buckley, appointed chanceman August 1, 1916, patrolman November 14, 1916; Albert Bednarcz, appointed chanceman August 1, 1916, patrolman November 14, 1916; John Ferencz, appointed chanceman January 1, 1917, patrolman April 1, 1917; Michael Makowsky, appointed chanceman January 1, 1917, patrolman April 1, 1917; George Eckhardt, appointed chanceman August 15, 1917, patrolman December 1, 1917; Lawrence Van Gorp, appointed chanceman August 15, 1917, patrolman December 1, 1917; Michael J. Carey, appointed chanceman February 1, 1918, patrolman May 1, 1918; Martin Kikkert, appointed chanceman March 4, 1913, patrolman June 1, 1918; Abram Geene, appointed chanceman April 1, 1918, patrolman August 1, 1918; Edward Boyko, appointed chanceman May 1, 1918, patrolman September 1, 1918; Matthew Getchius, appointed chanceman July 4, 1918, patrolman December 1, 1918; Edward Delaney, appointed chanceman February 1, 1918, patrolman May 1, 1919; Thomas Crawbuck, appointed chanceman February 1, 1919, patrolman May 1, 1919; George W. Borneman, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; John J. Cavanaugh, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; Wilbert G. Eelman, appointed chanceman, May 1, 1920; John Kempe, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; William Meade, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; William J. McGuire, appointed chanceman, May 1, 1920; Louis Siegendorf, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; John J. Potosnak, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; Cornelius Struyk, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920; Oscar Weiss, appointed chanceman May 1, 1920.

On August 1, 1921, the following were appointed as chancemen for five months, at the end of which they would become regular policemen: John O'Connor, John Van Hoven, Barney Warshaw, Irving Evansky, Rudolph Weiss, Garret Van Brookhoven, Edward Belli, John Flanagan, Andrew Supko, Joseph Nemetz, Stanley Earles, James J. Cahill, Eric Hoar, William J. Lucas.

At the same time, Mrs. Stella Sennert, wife of Edmund Sennert, was appointed as assistant to Mrs. Marion B. Fitchett, (already on the force), Police Court investigator. Policemen Louis Siegendorf resigned and John J. Cavanagh was suspended for conduct unbecoming an officer. The entire Police Department personnel at the beginning of the year 1922 numbers eighty-one men and two women. Lieutenant of Detectives Green resigned and was placed on pension in the early part of 1921.

In accordance with the Pierson law, the policemen's and firemen's commissions are consolidated. Mayor McGuire and Commissioner Seger are members of the new commission.

Sergeant Zober was elected to represent the Police Department, and George Geisert the Fire Department men. The commission selected Thomas Foxhall, Sr., a civilian.

Secretary Zober's report for 1920 showed that the total receipts for the year were \$7,244.33 and the expenditures \$5,260.30. The balance in the bank, \$1,984.01. The receipts come from one per cent. of the patrol-



men's salaries and awards to the department during the year. Under the Pierson law, the police and firemen will be compelled to contribute two per cent. of their wages to the fund.

The Police Department was fortunate in receiving many gifts during the year. Detectives and patrolmen did exceptionally good work and Chief Schmidt had praise for them. Some of the contributions received during the year were from Solomon, \$50; Mr. Greenberg, \$100; Lederer Brothers, \$100; Passaic-Bergen Lumber Company, \$75, and William Greengrass, \$100.

(For particulars respecting this commission, see Fire Department).

Previous to 1921 there were a Patrolmen's Benefit Association and a Pension Fund. The latter was combined with the Police Pension Fund in 1921. The following are the names of the present officers of the association, and the last officers of the Pension Fund:

Association officers are: George Eckhardt, president; Jacob Tróast, vice-president; Nicholas De Vries, treasurer; Lawrence Van Gorp, recording secretary; Edward Delaney, financial secretary; Michael Makowsky, sergeant-at-arms; Tunis Van Gulick, Matthew Getchius and Abram Geene, trustees.

Pension Fund—Thomas Foxhall, Sr., chairman; City Treasurer Harry J. Ketcham, treasurer; Desk Sergeant Richard Zober, secretary; Judge Thomas P. Costello and Officer John Freeland.

Officials and men of the department are looking forward to the erection of a new police headquarters building. The present quarters have been used for a number of years and are inadequate.

Standing out prominently among the really wonderful achievements of the department is the singular success in maintaining law and order during labor troubles, not a single fatality being recorded in any of the strikes which occurred during the fifty years the department has been in existence. Most conspicuous were the strikes of 1912 and 1919. In 1912 there were 10,000 workers led by the most radical agitators in America—Haywood, Thompson, Tresca and Gurley Flynn, of the Chicago I. W. W., and Boris Reinstein, of the Detroit I. W. W., now one of the big chiefs of the Russian Bolshevik government.

They went through a ten-weeks' struggle without the semblance of a riot, due largely to the fair-minded manner in which the late Police Commissioner John H. Kehoe, assisted by City Commissioner J. Hosey Osborn, the late Chief William Hendry and Captain (now Chief) Schmidt handled the situation. Commissioner Kehoe and Chief Schmidt, assisted by Captains Turner and Crawbuck, carried out the same policy in February, March and April, 1919, when 15,000 to 17,000 woolen, worsted, cotton, handkerchief, rubber, wire, cigar, stove polish and silk workers were on strike all the way up to eleven and twelve weeks.

No partiality was shown either side and as a result there was no lawlessness and no destruction of property, even though there were





some ultra-radicals among the strikers and their leaders. Throughout both strikes the men of the department worked literally night and day, many of them putting in fourteen to sixteen hours daily without complaint.

Another test of the courage and ability of Passaic's peace officers, which is recalled with interest, was that displayed in May, 1908, when three hundred laborers, after an all-night meeting and preparation, descended upon a group of men excavating ground for a new Herald building on Lexington avenue and Central avenue, and showered them with a hail of bricks. The late Sergeant Matthew Kelly and six officers dispersed the rioters who entrenched themselves and gave battle with weapons of all kinds, including pistols. Police reinforcements, numbering about ten men, came up, broke the line of defense and after a chase all over the city and into the outskirts succeeded in capturing nearly one hundred of the invaders.

But a word must be said about Judge Thomas P. Costello, ten years presiding magistrate in the City Court, as Passaic's Police Court has become known. Much of the success in maintaining the high standard of efficiency in the department can be traced to the way in which Judge Costello has co-operated with the police heads and the officers and the manner in which he has disposed of the thousands of cases brought before him. He established a Poor Man's Court, which has proved a benefaction, and his method of dealing with juveniles and with domestic differences has often attracted nation-wide attention. Judges before him, whose rulings have been recalled by many an officer and citizen, with interest, include Judge George H. Dalrymple, always fair and an especially good friend of unfortunate boys; John H. Bowker, who paid many a man's fine when he found the offender was unable to do so; Richard (popularly known as Dick) Morrell, whose happy smile won him many friends, and whose judicial decisions won him admiration; Edward Moore, brother of the late Thomas H. Moore; also Judges Pudney and Norton, who were stern but fair and ever ready to do a good turn.

On September 2, 1920, the Passaic Police Department celebrated its golden anniversary by entertaining the police of New Jersey at their twentieth annual convention, proud of a history replete with thrilling experiences and brilliant achievements by its members, a record of service equaled by few and surpassed by no other department in any city of its size in New Jersey and probably by no other city in its class in the United States. And this in face of the fact that Passaic's force of men is perhaps the smallest of all, the welfare of its 75,000 inhabitants being looked after and protected by a total of eighty-one officers and men.

Taking into consideration that there are thirty-seven different nationalities in Passaic's cosmopolitan makeup, that the city is a center of



mecca for thousands of residents of a dozen neighboring communities, it has been remarkably free from disturbance and crime. Professional crooks and other undesirables who ply their trades of every description in the big cities avoid Passaic. Among criminals throughout the country Passaic is known as "a good place to steer clear of."

The first mention of a Lock-up was at a meeting of the village council held September 26, 1870, the matter of securing such was referred diversified industry, essentially a manufacturing town, and really the to the finance committee. This committee failing to act, a special committee of three was appointed June 3, 1871, to secure a suitable Lock-up. On September 11, 1871, this committee reported the offer of Herman Schulting of a room in the cellar of the Acquackanonk House (now known as the Armory), at a rental of \$250 a year, which was accepted, and the village leased it. The first occupant was one of Clifton's respected residents, who on October 11, 1871, was arrested for drunkenness and reckless driving. "The prisoner's lamentations were so loud and heartrending as to secure his immediate release."

By an ordinance of November 13, 1871, the first Police station was established in this basement, where for almost two years business was conducted, or until August 1, 1873, the station and jail were removed to an ancient stone building that for about a year had been occupied by a weekly paper, the *Sentinel*, and for which the rent was only \$90 a year. The city spent \$85 for repairs and alterations. Here the station and jail remained two more years, or until 1875, when they were removed to a brick building upon the site now occupied by them, on Howe avenue. The Sentinel building stood on what are now known as Nos. 163, 165 Prospect street, which ancient building had been the ancestral farm house of a Cornelius Van Houten, whose farm included all land on the westerly side of Prospect street and Lexington avenue from Grove terrace to Jackson street. It was the first home of Dr. John M., father of the late ex-Mayor Charles M. Howe when he first came to Passaic, in 1854, and purchased it, which was then known as the King farm, owned by James W. King. Within its walls plans were made for establishing mail facilities for this place more than a century ago.





## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

This building occupies the site of a church, which, until the village acquired it in 1872, was owned by the Methodist congregation. The city made alterations, adapting the ground floor for the accommodation of the fire department. The second floor, consisting of one vast auditorium, was used as a council chamber and city clerk's office. "Town Hall" was the name by which the old church came to be known. Originally the building was erected about 1845, on River drive, about two hundred feet north of Ayerigg avenue, where it was used by the Methodists for twenty years, and then removed in sections and placed where is now the present Municipal building.

The object in acquiring this old church was not for any other purpose than that expressed in the report of the committee, February 19, 1872, who had been appointed "to examine into a site for a house for the fire apparatus," recommending the purchase of the Methodist church, providing that the triangle opposite be thrown open to the public, which report was adopted.

Dr. John M. Howe, the owner of the triangle, refused to give it, and the church property was purchased August 7, 1872, without the triangle, for \$7,500. Improvements were made costing \$4,075, at the completion of which it was necessary to spend \$25 more to fill in the swamp in front of the building, which stood back ten feet from the road, before the fire apparatus could be put in.

Aside from the occupation of the first floor by the fire department the rest of the structure remained idle for a whole year. The council held its meetings in the basement of public school hall under a lease which did not expire until May 11, 1873, when the last meeting there was held.

The first meeting of the council in the fire department building was held June 9, 1873, and in the minutes of that meeting we read, "Minutes of meeting held in the City Hall." By this name it was known as long as it remained standing. Its old material was partly used in the construction of the one-story affair at the northwest corner of Garden street and Howe avenue.

Less than three years after being acquired, the need of an office for the city clerk, a police station and lock-up, led to the erection of a small, two-storied brick addition, in the rear to the main building and fronting on Howe avenue. In this hall council meetings were held and the city clerk utilized his new office until 1892, when both were transferred to the present City Hall on Tony's Nose, after which the old town hall remained vacant except for theatricals and shows until the





present abominal, poorly constructed, monstrosity, planned by novices, was erected. The site is worthy of a real municipal building that would accommodate all offices.

The police station, lock-up and Police Court occupy the site of the former brick extension, while the District Court holds forth in a room adjoining the Police Court on the second floor. These quarters being outgrown, necessity and nothing else compelled a change for far larger ones. This led to the acquiring of Public School No. One, on Passaic street, long ago condemned for the purposes of a school, which is now being converted to the uses of the Police Department and Police Court, to which its location admirably adapts it.

#### TOWN CLOCK.

For forty years after the passage of the first law starting Passaic on its course toward a city, there had been no public clock, and would have been none in 1906, were it not for our efficient County Clerk, who, on the eighth day of May, 1906, startled the community by sending a letter to the old Board of Council:

Gentlemen: I take pleasure in stating that I have given an order, subject to your approval and acceptance, to the George M. Stevens Company, 15 Chandos street, Boston, to install in the tower of the Municipal building, Prospect street, a time and striking clock, as per specifications enclosed, without cost to the city.

Trusting that this proposition may meet with favor, and awaiting such action as may be determined by your honorable body, I remain, Yours very truly,

JOHN J. SLATER.

Mr. Slater's generous gift was most gladly accepted, with thanks of the officials and citizens generally. The clock was installed and completed in August 10th. It was started going at six o'clock Saturday evening, August 11, 1906, and is still active. The bell weighs 1,500 pounds, with a ten-pound hammer, striking the hour. At first it also was used as a fire alarm, and to prevent confusion, at the moment when the hour and alarms signal came together, an arrangement was made whereby the alarm signal would drown the hour strokes.

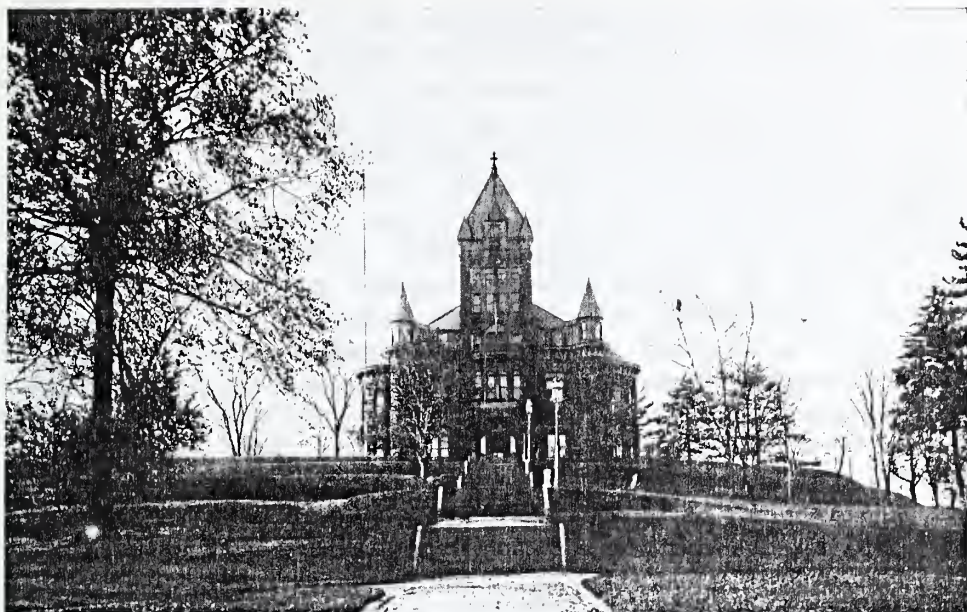
#### CITY HALL.

Ever since the highest point of land was occupied by the British troops as a camping ground, under General Anthony (Tony) Howe, the present City Hall park was not only known, but always, in conversation and in writings referred to as *Tony's Nose*. It was part of the Van Wagoner farm, being lot No. 14, in the Acquackanonk Patent, 1684. In the division of that farm, among the devisees of John Van Wagoner, in 1845, this park land was set off to Phebe Van Blarcom, a sister of the half blood, wife of Adrian Van Blarcom, who, until it was conveyed to Walter Gregory, cultivated it for corn and potatoes.

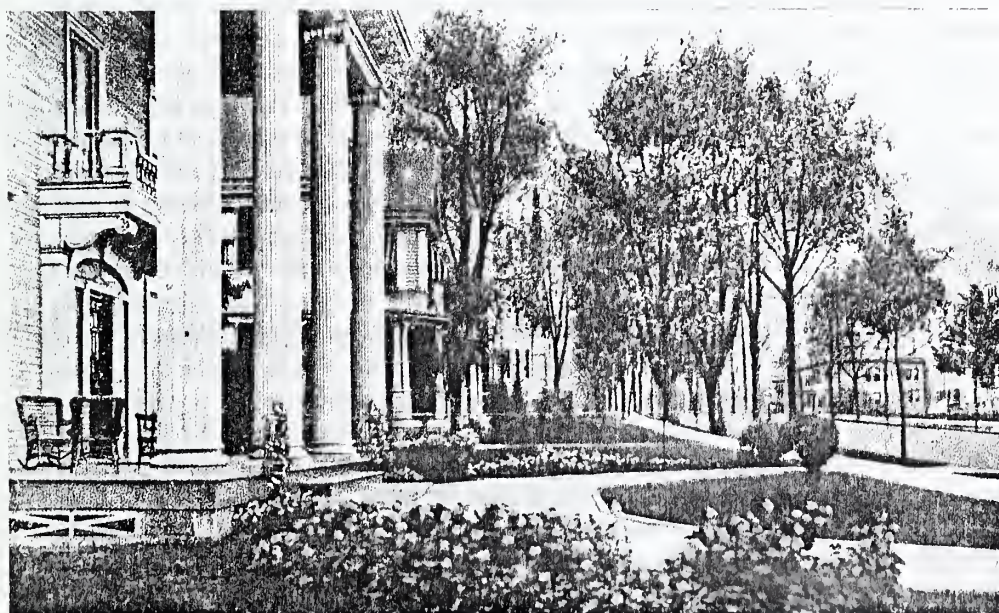
Back in the fifties, Charles McKnight Paulison, a book agent, in order to secure subscriptions to a book entitled, "Memoirs of Congress-







CITY HALL—TONY'S NOSE



PASSAIC AVENUE





man," selling at \$40, and for which he had already secured hundreds of orders, visited Passaic, and while going about was impressed with the beauties of the old village, and its desirability for residence in the "Hill" section. In leaving he made mental note of the fact. His birth place was Hackensack, whence he had gone to Utica, where he had been until then practicing law, in which, failing, he took up the business of book selling for a while. He had been to California during and after the discovery of gold, residing there long enough to be elected to several minor offices. After the gold excitement had passed, Paulison returned East and resumed his book agency. He had very little money and little prospect of more, which he wished he had in order to purchase the Van Wagoner farm, which he had now concluded to do. He consulted Jay Gould, noted for his shrewdness and good judgment. Gould gave him a letter of introduction to Dudley S. Gregory, third, a wealthy real estate operator, in Jersey City, whom Paulison called upon. Gregory listened, visited Passaic, and after considering the matter, agreed to purchase certain portions, (not all, but the best), of the farm, for Paulison, but taking title in his own name and holding it until Paulison could pay or secure the money due him.

In due time this was done, and Gregory conveyed this park land to Paulison's wife, Anna, who was of a wealthy Monmouth county family (Shepard) and had a considerable estate of her own. In this way Anna Paulison acquired much of that farm, and by direct purchase the entire Post farm adjoining on the southwest, besides other large tracts in and near the then village. Streets and avenues were laid out and houses erected by Paulison, who also sold hundreds of building lots. He started things, and carried them on until he had disposed of nearly all of the most desirable property, which took about twelve years. In the meantime he had reserved Park Heights for his own use around which he had erected an iron fence, at the entrance to which he built, of dressed stone, a unique and beautiful gate-keeper's lodge. Being fond of flowers, he constructed extensive greenhouses, filled with choice flowers and shrubs, and which were thrown open to and were visited by thousands of the public, many of whom came miles to see, on Sundays and holidays. Finally the time came when Mr. Paulison felt he was entitled to retire and rest under the shade of his own vine and fig tree, and with that end in view began the erection of the private house called by the public, *Paulison's castle*. In addition to the greenhouses and fence, which had cost about \$28,000 and \$12,000 respectively, there had been erected stables, which, and the gate-keeper's lodge, had cost \$25,000. Everything was massive and on a lavish scale, as was shown after the city had acquired the property, and when material and labor were cheap, when the top, carved, companion entrance gate post which Paulison had not finished, cost \$350. Each post cost \$1,200. In round figures, the property had cost about \$100,000 before the castle was begun, which was



1872. At the end of two years the building had proceeded as far as the roof when the effects of the panic of October, 1873, began to be felt. By this time Mr. Paulison had sunk not only every dollar he possessed, but \$40,000 which had been obtained on a mortgage to a life insurance company. Many thousands were owing for material and labor, all which the Manhattan Life Insurance Company had to pay to protect its mortgage under the foreclosure of which this company acquired the property, and for a long time tried to sell, but in vain. The window and door openings were boarded up and a temporary roof put on. So it remained for fifteen years when the city bought it from Peter Reid and Moses E. Worthen, who had bought it for \$33,000, and held it for the city, which paid them that sum, \$10,000 of which was furnished by men whose names may be seen on a tablet to the left of the entrance.

After the city became owner there was much discussion as to what disposition to make of the castle, indulged in by the taxpayers. Some called the purchase a waste of money and advised disposing of it, while others approved and made suggestions as to how best to improve and utilize it. There was and still remains an agreement in the deed to the city that the property should never be used as a police court or jail.

The city, at a cost of \$27,000, completed the building as it stands today, dedicating it on April 30, 1892, which was one of the greatest days ever witnessed in the old town. Two bronze tablets were placed at the entrance—one on each side, inscribed: The one on the right, as one enters:

**ERECTED A. D. 1891.**

By the City Government of Passaic.

Mayor, Walston R. Brown.

**CITY COUNCIL:**

Christian Huber, President

Timothy Haggerty	John A. Hegeman	William Rushmer
Martin Costello	William L. Clark	William W. Scott
Francis McGuire	George F. Swain	William H. Lord
Bird W. Spencer	James H. Roscoe	Christian Huber

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

Bird W. Spencer	William Rushmer	George F. Swain
David Henry, Builder	Richard B. Tindall, City Clerk	
	Louis H. Giele, Architect.	

The one on the left reading:

The good that men do lives after them.

This building and park, formerly owned and planned by C. M. K. Paulison, were acquired by the city of Passaic through the energy and liberality of the following citizens. Peter Reid, Moses E. Worthen, A. Swan Brown, H. A. Barry, W. I. Barry, R. D. Benson, R. W. Bigelow, R. W. Bissell, W. R. Brown, D. Carlisle, F. S. Chase, H. P. Doremus, Geo. W. Finch, John Foulds, E. N. Frisbie, J. T. Granger, E. M. Hale, C. G. Hanks, Geo. LeB. Hartt, Wm. Kent, M. D. M. Marsellus, W. C. Kimball, R. D. Kent, Geo. A. Milne, Thos. M. Moore, R. Outwater, E. K. Rose, Geo. P. Rust, W. L. Smith, L. F. Spencer, Geo. F. Swain, Dr. R. A. Terhune, G. B. Waterhouse, V. S. Wilcox, S. T. Zabriskie.





## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### CHURCHES.

In early times and until a comparatively recent period, the houses for public worship in the then sparsely settled districts of New Jersey, were not heated in winter. This included the "Old First" Reformed of today. It was then the prevailing custom among the gentler sex to carry with them to the place, in cold weather, a foot-stove composed of a small wooden frame so inclosed with perforated tin as to make a box eight or ten inches square in which was placed a close-fitting sheet-iron pan filled with glowing embers lightly covered with ashes. It was carried by a wire handle, and in the sleigh and in the meeting-house was placed under the feet. This, with the fur muff and tippet, kept the owners comfortable, while the condition of the "sterner sex" was often quite the reverse. They sat sometimes full two hours and more, listening to psalm-singing, praying, and sermonizing until chilled to the marrow. And when, finally, some bolder sufferer dared to protest against the multiform affliction and infliction, custom and prejudice were so strong that he was regarded as an irreverent innovator; "a pretty christian you must be," some frost-proof deacon would say, "to need a fire to warm your zeal." It is related that when, after long conflict, some of these reformers in a Connecticut congregation, succeeded in getting a stove into their meeting-house, two venerable ladies, who had been horrified by the innovation, fainted because of the dry heat and sickly sensation caused by the stove. They were carried out into the pure air, and soon revived when told that on account of the incompleteness of the pipe, fire had not yet been lighted in the stove.

In those days there was inconvenience in the matter of public worship, not only on account of the cold weather in winter, but in the matter of luncheon, for there were generally two sessions held on Sunday, and the worshippers coming, sometimes, from long distances, were compelled to bring food with them for a noon-day meal. Some went to a neighboring dwelling to warm themselves, after the service in the cold meeting-house and there ate their lunches. Others went to the tavern, for in Acquackanonk, as in other towns, the couplet was true, that

"Where pious men erect a house of prayer  
The Devil is sure to build a Chapel there,"

in which they found an open door and an open bar where an evil spirit sometimes carried away much of the good seed sown by the preachers. In some districts buildings were erected near the meeting house for the purpose of accommodating portions of the congregation with bodily





comforts while partaking of their mid-day luncheon. They were appropriately called "Sabba' Day," or "Noon Houses."

The one connected with this old church was the parsonage erected in 1713 and shortly thereafter used as a tavern for more than a century, which gained for it the name of "Tap House on the Hill." It stood almost in front of the old church until destroyed by fire in 1877. On the first floor, across the entry, from the bar-room, was a large sitting room for travellers and guests, containing an immense fire place. This room was used by the church-goers and their guests on Sundays, for their comfort and for the purpose of placing the glowing embers in the foot stoves.

On Sunday morning the worshipper deposited in his saddle-bags the necessary refreshments for himself and family, and with them made an early start for the sanctuary. They first called at the "Noon House," deposited their luncheon, warmed themselves, placed live coals of wood in their foot stoves, and started to church, which, at the hour of worship, they entered the church to shiver in the cold during the morning service. At noon they returned to their "noon-house," with invited friends, where a warm room received them. The saddle-bags were now brought forth, and their contents discharged on the table, of which all partook a little. Then each in turn drank from the pitchers, or mugs, of cider which had been brought from the cellar. This service being performed and thanks returned, the remaining time was spent in reading notes and discussing the morning sermon, a chapter from the Bible or from some other book of a religious character; not unfrequently prayer was offered before retiring again to the sanctuary for the afternoon worship. At the close of the services of the afternoon, if the weather was severely cold, the family returned to the "Noon House" to warm themselves, replenish foot stoves, the saddle-bags gathered up, and all returned home.

The Old First Reformed, True Reformed, Methodist and St. John's Episcopal, (whose histories are set forth elsewhere in this work), were organized previous to the Civil War. For one whole and one-third of another century (134 years), the Old First had been the only church here, serving a parish of about thirty square miles. The first break in its ranks occurred in 1825, when about twenty-five families left and organized the True Reformed (called Seceder) church.

The history of the Protestant Church is contemporaneous with the life of Passaic; and her influence, like an ever widening and deepening stream, has increased with the growth of the population. The fifteen or twenty families from Communipaw which came here in 1685, the recognized pioneers of the settlement of Acquackanonk, were God-fearing people. Some of them had been born and brought up in Holland, where their ancestors had suffered from the cruel oppressions of the Roman Inquisition. Religious liberty was inbred in these families and





LOW-DUTCH-CHURCH  
AT-ACQUACKANONK  
-1693-





religious culture was their first aim. They clung tenaciously to the observance of religious worship.

The first preacher in this vicinity of whom we have any knowledge was Dominie Tesschenmaeker, who fell a victim to the common massacre when, on February 8, 1690, the French and Indians attacked Schenectady. He was laboring in that vicinity at that time. He and his wife and two servants, besides others of the inhabitants, were butchered in the dead of night. Such was the cruel fate of the first messenger of Christ and missionary to the people living in the then wilderness of Acquackanonk and Hackensack.

Although the date can not be definitely determined, it is likely that the settlers of Acquackanonk founded their church during the period of Dominie Tesschenmaeker's irregular ministry, probably in 1686. This was the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Acquackanonk, now commonly known as the First Reformed Church, which for more than two hundred years had its place of worship on lower Main Avenue, and now has a more commodious sanctuary on the corner of Passaic and Paulison Avenues. This is the oldest church organization in the county. It has had a continuous history from that time until the present. For one hundred and thirty-six years it was the only church in Acquackanonk to supply the religious needs of the people for miles around. It has had only twelve pastors. The Dutch language was used in its worship until 1816 when the church became bi-lingual, and gradually the English supplanted the Dutch in the services of the church.

The first regularly installed minister of the church was the Rev. Guillian Bertholf, who in the spring of 1694 assumed the pastoral care of the Hackensack and Acquackanonk churches. He was "the first regularly installed pastor in the State of New Jersey." His agreement with the joint consistory required that, besides other duties specified, he should visit his people scattered over a territory stretching from Belleville on the south to Tappan on the north, and from the Hackensack and even the Hudson on the east to Pompton on the west.

In 1822 the field was divided with "The True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Acquackanonk," which organization, until the year 1895, maintained a house of worship where the Passaic Trust and Safe Deposit Company's building now stands, and since then has worshipped on Prospect Street near Bloomfield Avenue.

This church was one of those created during the Great Secession after a bitter doctrinal fight, 1822-5. It was organized in April, 1825, by fifty-six of the members of the Old First and their minister, Rev. Peter D. Froeligh. One of its rich members, Abraham Ackerman, gave the land, between Main avenue and Prospect street, on the front of which the church (stone) was erected in 1825, with the graveyard in the rear. For three years prosperity followed. In January Ackerman became dangerously ill, and on Shrove Tuesday, when it became known



that he could not recover, the pastor, then only forty-five years of age, committed suicide by opening the jugular vein and bled to death, February 19, 1828. Strange to relate, Adam Boyd, Surrogate of Bergen county, upon learning of this, killed himself the same day and in the same way. Ackerman died on February 28, 1828. From this time on the church declined until only two remained, when in 1895, several Hollanders joined, elected one of their men pastor, sold the Main avenue front, erected the church known as Prospect Street Christian Reformed.

First Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1843, as the result of a Union Sunday School in the parlor of Thomas Frazier, who had an iron foundry for stove castings along the river, near the present Ayerigg avenue (if extended). With the assistance of Mrs. Catharine Holsman, he organized the church, which erected an edifice on premises known at present as Nos. 330, 332 River drive. In 1865 the building was taken down and re-erected on the site of the Municipal Building. While this was being done services were held in Howe Academy. Five years later the building and land were sold to the city and on September 11, 1871, the corner-stone of the present church was laid, and until the completion of the edifice, services were held in the basement of Public School No. 1, Passaic street. On May 23, 1872, it was incorporated as St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. The new church cost more than intended, resulting in forcing the church in bankruptcy and causing the financial ruin of its three trustees, who had signed notes for money the church owed, and which read: "We, the trustees, &c., promise to pay." On September 2, 1876, the church was re-incorporated as the First Methodist Episcopal Church, which then acquired the church and forty-four years later the old glebe.

The church, after twenty-five years, recovered from its unfortunate financial difficulties and began a growth that has placed it among the city's leading churches. The Rev. Charles M. Anderson is now serving his fourth year.

At the close of the Civil War, the village of Passaic, with a population of about 700, possessed these four churches only, viz.: Old First, True Reformed (or Seceder), Methodist, and St. John's Episcopal. The Old First was the most modern and progressive, although older by a century and a quarter than the next oldest. Its Sunday School was the largest in the county, and acted as a magnet to draw the boys and girls from a distance of several miles around.

Its pastor, the Rev. J. Paschal Strong, was full of energy and preached forceful sermons that drew large congregations to his services. He was an attractive preacher, throwing his whole soul into his sermons, wherein he suited his actions to his words, and so enthusiastic would he become, and so quick to act this enthusiasm, that often the pulpit seemed too small to hold him. Possessing so much vitality, it





became contagious among men who liked that style of preacher. One sermon was sufficient to make regular attendants of all men. As a result the church and Sunday School buildings became inadequate to accommodate all who wished to attend, and demands were made for enlargements, which demands were refused, and rightly so, perhaps, because those making demands were not Jersey Dutch Reformers, but belonged to other sects, which so soon as their numbers became sufficiently strong, would leave and establish their own particular congregation. This reasoning was justified, when inside of three years, the Baptists withdrew and organized a Baptist church in 1864. There still remained, however, a score of families who had lately come to the village from other places, mostly New Englanders. These, added to other new members, filled the church to capacity, and a demand was again made to erect a larger building, or make additions to the old one; towards the expense of which these Yankees were willing to contribute. But the demand was for the second time refused. This led to a meeting of the newcomers, whereat a committee was appointed to visit the other churches and report for or against joining with one of them, and upon careful investigation, to give the history and membership of each church.

Of the new comers to the village at this time, it is remarkable how many of them were of Calvinistic tendencies, and how few of Wesleyism. Many of them were from the Eastern states, where Methodism flourished, and it is remarkable that so few of that faith located here at that time.

This committee reported that the Methodist church, although boasting of few members, was considered strong and prosperous when the number of that faith here was considered. An able man as pastor was assisted in his work by several staunch, religious men and a larger number of women. Since 1842 the Methodists had been doing very good work here, and held several revivals, when the church building stood near the north corner of Ayerigg avenue and River road, opposite which was an iron foundry, many of whose employees were members of this church, until the foundry closed its doors and business. In 1865 the church building was taken down and removed to the site of the Municipal building, where it formed an attractive place of worship, inside and out. Its leading men were among the best in the village, and there was every inducement apparently to invite newcomers to it. It had a well conducted Sunday School, with a corps of well qualified teachers. But, even so, the Methodist Church, with its attractions, did not serve to draw the newcomers, who wanted a denomination of their own faith.

St. John's Episcopal Church, which had been organized in 1859, followed by the erection of a pretty, well-located, well-furnished building, with spire and bell, on Prospect street, had few members. Its rec-





tor was highly educated and polished and very popular with his parishoners, some being the richest persons in the village—the kind that attended church in a coach, but who remained aloof from the villagers, except as they might meet in church. The rector was married to a daughter of his richest, most exclusive member, and was popular with men in the village outside of his parish, and was a school trustee. Connected with this church was a flourishing Sunday School, which had already become popular with many of the children of the newcomers. But few, if any, of their parents had been drawn to the church. This was no fault of the rector. It was simply because that denomination was not in accord with their form of worship; hence this church failed to draw.

A visit to the Seceder church convinced the committee that they were not wanted—the dozen surviving members preferring to go it alone until none was left.

Upon receipt of the report it was decided to organize a church of their own, the denomination of which should be determined by ballot. At a subsequent meeting ballots were cast resulting in the selection of the Presbyterian denomination, which was immediately (March 4, 1867) organized and thereupon left the Old First in a body, and became the Presbyterian Society, commonly called First Presbyterian, today.

But the Old First continued to go on in her successful march, even though at this time (1867) there were rumblings of another “break away,” or secession by a goodly number of her older members, who, and their ancestral families, had been members and officers there for a century and a half. This actually occurred December 3, 1868, when the North Reformed Church was found by thirty-six members of the Old First and its pastor, who were encouraged to do this by Mr. Edo Kip, who believed a church would aid materially in sales of his land. The church was incorporated by the above name January 19, 1869, and a chapel built which served for all services until the handsome stone edifice was erected and dedicated April 26, 1891. Later a Community House was erected on the site of the old chapel. The church has prospered under energetic pastors, of whom the present one, Rev. Walter S. Bloom, is the sixth in fifty-four years. This church is among the strong ones of the city.

Until 1825 the Dutch Reformed churches in this country were undivided. In that year occurred secession and the seceders added the word “True” to their denominational name. In 1868 the word “Dutch” was elided. Subsequently the Hollanders substituted “Netherland” or “Holland” to their church name, and those of the “True” denomination added the word “Christian” in lieu of “True.” Today Passaic has of the “Christian,” or Seceder, denomination, three churches—Holland Reformed, Northside Reformed, both legally incorporated, and the Prospect Street Reformed, which was never incorporated, but





TRUE REFORMED, OR SECEDER CHURCH





in a legal sense is still living under the title of "True Reformed," which seceded in 1825.

The Prospect Street Christian Reformed Church is the successor, in a material sense, of the True Reformed, or Seceder Church, which church, when its membership had been reduced to two, was captured by some Hollanders, one of whom had a minister in the family, and these Hollanders elected themselves on the Board of Trustees, installed their relative as pastor, sold off more than one-half of the valuable property, and erected the present church building, and subsequently the adjoining parsonage on Prospect street. Their growth has been rapid, and the church today is hardly large enough to accommodate the congregation. The Rev. Dirk De Beer is pastor.

The Holland Christian Reformed Church, as the True Holland Christian Reformed Church, was incorporated June 24, 1889, and erected its house of worship at the corner of Washington Place and Columbia avenue, where it remained until 1893, when this was sold to the Congregation Bnai Jacob Synagogue, and property purchased at the corner of Hope avenue and Madison street, where a parsonage and house of worship were erected, which are still used.

On June 24, 1889, the name was changed to that of the Holland Christian Reformed Church. The pastor is the Rev. Karl Fortuin, under whom the church is prospering.

The Northside Christian Reformed Church was organized May 23, and incorporated July 22, 1905, with thirty families numbering two hundred and twenty-five, and eighty communicants. Until August 15, 1906, services were held in the Lexington Church, now Trinity Methodist Church, on Autumn street, when removal was had to the present church edifice, which had just been erected. The pastor, until August 4, 1907, was Rev. Reinder Drukker, when Rev. Arie J. Vanden Heuvel was installed, who, in five years, increased the number of families to one hundred, numbering over five hundred, and two hundred communicants. In 1911 trouble began when Harry A. Hetteema brought suit against his wife for divorce. Both were members of the church and their friends took sides. Mr. Vanden Heuvel was subpoenaed as a witness. His testimony was favorable to Mr. Hetteema, who was granted a decree. The two factions in the church finally caused a split and Classis of Hudson took hold. Mr. Vanden Heuvel was suspended by the Classis for six months, but allowed his pay.

When the six months were drawing to a close and the friendly members of the church learned that their pastor was in danger of being lost to them altogether, they remonstrated.

Then there was trouble. Classis Hudson had assigned another minister of the Classis, the Rev. Mr. Krone, to preach in the church. When he made his appearance the members favoring Mr. Vanden Heuvel refused to allow him to occupy the pulpit, they having taken possession



early in the morning. Injunctions were issued against first one, then the other faction, and finally the church was closed altogether by the Chancery Court.

Then an amicable agreement was reached whereby one faction used the church Sunday mornings, and the other in the afternoon, and every other day during the week if they desired.

The Vanden Heuvel followers sprung a big surprise, when at a meeting in January, 1912, it was voted to secede from Classis Hudson, and form an independent church with Mr. Vanden Heuvel as pastor. This was done and a few months later the congregation was accepted, with the pastor, into Classis Paramus of the Reformed Church of America. It became known as the Fourth Reformed Church of Passaic. Both the Northside and the Fourth Reformed congregations continued to use the church as per the old agreement until the courts could decide the ownership.

The court decided that the Northsiders were the legal owners of the property and entitled to sole possession, whereupon the Fourth Reformers, on August 15, 1913, vacated and Mr. Vanden Heuvel left the church and parsonage.

The Fourth Reformed Church was formed in 1912 by the former pastor, Rev. Arie J. Vanden Heuvel, and some of the members of the Northside Christian Reformed Church who, until that time, belonged to Classis of Hudson, which had deposed Mr. Vanden Heuvel, who then made application to, and was received into the Classis of Paramus of the Reformed Church in America, April 16, 1912.

After being ejected from the Northside Church, August 15, 1913, the new congregation held services in the Trinity Methodist Church, on Autumn street until February 25, 1915, when they took possession of the present edifice corner Burgess place and Third street, Clifton. On December 14, 1914, the name was changed to Holland Reformed Church of Clifton. Mr. Vanden Heuvel continued his pastorate until he removed from Passaic, and was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. John Weberhard.

The First Holland Reformed Church was organized December 5, 1874, with thirty-five members. They purchased a lot at the southeast corner of Elm and Monroe streets and erected thereon a large frame building, which is now used by the Falstrom & Tornqvist Company. Though the building was large, an addition was added thereto in 1902, making the floor space over 7,000 square feet, and the seating capacity 1,100. In the same year they erected a parsonage on Jackson street, and in 1911 erected a handsome stone church, which is still being used, at the corner of Quincy street and Hamilton avenue. This congregation is the most flourishing of the Holland reformed churches in this city, and has for its pastor, Rev. A. Van Duine.

The Netherland Reformed Church was incorporated December 24,







AYCRIGG AVENUE



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF RESIDENTIAL SECTION, PASSAIC





1883, and held services in the basement of the Presbyterian Church now standing at the corner of Park place and Exchange place. In December, 1885, it purchased this property, which a year later the Presbyterians vacated to occupy their new church at the corner of Passaic avenue and Grove terrace. The Netherland Church grew quite rapidly until the Rev. Cornelius Densel became its pastor, under whom its prosperity was so great that the church was only too small to accommodate those who wished to attend. Every Sunday the aisles and vestibules were filled with benches to accommodate the crowd of people. In November, 1920, Mr. Densel became enamoured with one of his young lady parishioners, and upon the spur of the moment wrote a letter of resignation, and on the twelfth eloped with her, going to Buffalo, where they remained awhile, then elsewhere, and at the end of a month returned to Passaic. As might have been expected, his congregation refused to have anything more to do with Mr. Densel, although he made apologies, and asked to be re-instated, which was refused. Since that time Mr. Densel has been engaged in various occupations in other cities.

The First Hungarian Reformed Church was incorporated August 4, 1898, and immediately proceeded to erect their present church building at the corner of Fourth and Morris streets. At the time of its organization it was a member of the American Missionary Board of Reformed Churches, which failing to give all the money required, the church became affiliated with the European Board, and thereafter received from that Board the income on \$7,000 yearly. The congregation has since prospered and today is doing a good work among the Hungarian people. Their present minister is Ladislaus Tegze.

In 1892 the First Holland Reformed Free Church was incorporated and purchased the Old Munroe Academy on Howe avenue, but after two years' struggle, disbanded.

The First Congregational Society was incorporated April 30, in the year 1885, and in May, 1886, purchased the property at the southwest corner of Van Houten and Main avenues, upon which it erected a dwelling house, upon the first floor of which services were held, and upon the upper floor the pastor lived. Here it remained until removal was had to property purchased April 1, 1889, at the corner of Randolph and High streets, where a tabernacle, which stood there for many a year, was erected. The society was successful in securing the services of many noted preachers, and in its early days was prosperous, but subsequently interest waned, and for a number of years its growth was slow, and so continued until the Rev. William Doidge, its present pastor, came here, in 1914, and succeeded in building up the church, which has attained great popularity. Ten years ago the parsonage was secured and a Community House erected, and now there is talk of



erecting a new building to take the place of the tabernacle. Under Mr. Doidge the membership is growing very fast.

The First German Baptist Church was incorporated January 6, 1892, and soon after purchased land on Hope avenue and erected a church which later was sold and removal had to Sherman street, where it has prospered, and at the present time growing fast, under the direction of the Rev. Ludwig Rabe, the pastor. At the date of its incorporation and for several years thereafter, services were held in Reisel's Hall, at No. 20 Second street, now owned by a Hebrew congregation. On July 8, 1898, it was re-incorporated as German Baptist Church, omitting "First." The church property, on the east side of Hope avenue, near Madison street, was also sold to a Hebrew congregation.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran St. Auskaru Church was incorporated May 1, 1893, purchased land on Jackson street, and erected thereon their present house of worship. The Rev. Carl W. Vetell is their minister, who is doing good work among the Swedish residents of this vicinity, who are much attached to him and their church. But the small number of Swedes in this vicinity necessarily prevents any great growth.

The First Church of Christ (Scientist) was incorporated March 10, 1904, and established their church quarters in a room on the third floor of the Morrisse building, wherein they originated; then to the fifth floor of the Peoples Bank Building until 1910, when they purchased a dwelling house at 58 Prospect street, into which they moved and began services, which have been continued ever since, without making any material changes in the building. In addition to the regular church service every Sunday, presided over by Dr. Paul H. Fairchild, the Reader, a Sunday School is conducted. Their membership is small and growth slow.

The St. George Episcopal Church was organized in the year 1908 as a Diocesan Mission of the Diocese of Newark, which purchased a plot of land on Monroe street, upon which was erected a substantial church edifice. The parish was in charge of the Rev. Hugh D. Wilson, who accomplished good work until, his health failing, he was compelled to resign in 1918 and go West. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Theodore Andrews. Mr. Wilson died in July, 1921, mourned by many of those who knew him. He had the true missionary spirit, which governed his activities here particularly among the poorer classes to whom he became very much attached, and in his death they lost a friend never to be replaced. Title to its property was taken by St. John's Episcopal Church.

The Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated June 1, 1909, and at once set to work to establish a church home, which was done by securing a lot on Autumn street, near Central avenue, upon which, in a short time, a chapel was erected, filling a long-felt want of





that neighborhood. The Rev. Edward Atwood, pastor for a number of years, until April 12, 1922, accomplished good work and was beloved by his people. The congregation has outgrown the building and plans are now being made to erect a large, handsome stone edifice in another locality. Rev. R. N. Avlsworth is now pastor.

Church of the Lord Jesus was incorporated March 25, 1911, and established itself on State street. It is composed of Italians.

The Unitarian Church Congregation was incorporated March 29, 1893, and erected their present house of worship on Prospect street. For a number of years the church was known simply as Unitarian Church, but in the year 1921 the name was changed to All Souls Unitarian Church. The congregation has always remained small, although the present pastor, the Rev. Joseph P. MacCarthy, is working hard to increase its membership. He came here and began his ministry March 27, 1921, realizing that in a city where so few of his faith reside, it meant a strenuous life to keep up a church whose membership is small and the outlook for an increase not over encouraging.

The Negroes of Passaic and vicinity, long years ago, were permitted to sit in the Slaves gallery of the Old First Reformed and True Reformed Churches. Not for the purpose of receiving spiritual benefits, (which according to their masters was impossible, inasmuch as they were as dumb animals—having no souls), but as a place to rest and sleep while the old dominie expounded to the nth place the fundamentals of Calvinism; at the close of which the slave would be awakened by the Voorliser, and hasten out on his tip-toes, to get his master's team ready for the long drive home. No attention was paid to the spiritual side of the black man until about 1820, when the wife of one Peter Jackson, a successful business man here at that time, formed a class of colored youth, which met and were taught by her, at her home, still standing at No. 144 River drive, on Sundays. From this class grew the first Sunday School in this state.

It remained for the Methodists to become interested in the men and women of dark color. About 1843 Mrs. Holsman, an active worker in the Methodist Church, succeeded in getting the older folks to attend that church to which, in time, they became more attached than to the Reformed. This attachment so increased their number attending there that it was considered advisable to organize a church for colored folk. And so it came about that seven white men, one Baptist and two each from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed churches, on the 24th day of February, 1874, filed certificate of incorporation of the Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church, and engaged the second floor of Howe Academy for meeting purposes. Because of a feeling that after all said and done, this was, in reality, a white man's church, it did not succeed, and in a few years closed its doors, and the colored folks dispersed themselves among other churches. There came, in time, a de-



mand for a church of, by and for colored people, whereupon several colored men made application to the Methodist African Conference for the establishment of a church, which was granted, and Rev. James Blanks, (colored), was appointed pastor. He came to Passaic in the summer of 1881, and made a study of the conditions of things, which was not encouraging owing to the failure of the people to agree on any plan of organization. He went ahead, with assistance of one white man, raised enough to erect a one-story building on Oak street, which was finished and used July 2, 1882. On September 14, 1883, he was instrumental in having his church incorporated as—*African Union First Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, Oak Street, Passaic*.

Because of differences with his trustees and members of his flock, there were created in the course of four years many enemies, who forcibly restrained him from entering upon his own pulpit; to regain which, and money due the church, he and the treasurer, Lawyer Scott (white), had recourse to the courts. Mr. Blanks was compelled to resign July 1, 1885. Three days later his old trustees and treasurer filed a certificate of incorporation of the *African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Connection of Passaic*, which struggled along until *St. Paul's African Union Church* became incorporated June 9, 1893, by the men who had been opposed to Rev. Blanks; but being unable to agree among themselves, abandoned *St. Paul's* after five years of personal encounters among themselves, law suits, and troubles with various pastors in the form of assault, arrests, lock-outs and actions for money, &c. For three years after 1898, there was no colored folks' church, or until May 18, 1901, when the *Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church* was incorporated, and had the effect of putting a quietus upon and healing all differences among the warriors. Strange to say, the same white man always was selected treasurer of each church. The *Bethel*, for twenty-one years, has gone on her way doing good work for her people. She owns a valuable property and her success is assured.

The Mt. Zion Baptist brethren incorporated July 29, 1902, have managed to get along without the squabbles, fights, both physical and legal, and jealousies of those of the Methodist persuasion, which continued a score of years, during which white people not only took no interest in them, refusing help, but put themselves about to shun them. In a great measure this is not so today, and yet it would be better if our churches and kindred organizations would take at least as much interest in the Negro as is taken in the foreigners of our city.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is the latest of the churches of the colored people.

In the decade, 1870-1880, the following churches were organized: The Wesley Methodist (colored) 1872; First Holland Reformed, 1874; True Holland Reformed, 1877; Passaic Bridge Christian Union, 1878.





In the decade 1880 to 1890, there were only: The African Union M. E. and the Netherland Reformed, 1883; African Protestant Connection and First Congregational, 1885; First German Presbyterian, 1886; Holland Christian Reformed and Congregation Bnai Jacob, 1889. During 1890 to 1900, the number was increased to seventeen, and from 1900 to 1910 again increased by three to twenty, and from 1910 to 1920, the number was twenty-five.

Business, or material, prosperity, is reflected in the material prosperity, at least of religious societies. During business depression 1920-1922, only one new church was organized.

Besides the Protestant churches whose histories are set forth in another part of this work, there may be mentioned: Grace Church, which is the successor of *The Church of Jesus Christ at the Passaic Gospel Mission*, organized some twenty-five years ago, as an independent church, having no connection with any Synod, Presbytery, Episcopate or Bishop, by James R. Morris, a converted baseball player, who then was and every since has been, anxious for the redemption of the down-and-outs, as well as of others. He is a Christian, through and through, and has done great things. His church thrives, even though he never was ordained.

The Church of Jesus Christ still continues as a Mission at No. 24 State street, under the management of Mr. Morris.

The Grace Church building was formerly owned by the Dundee Presbyterian Society, of Passaic, which was organized by that zealous pastor, the late Dr. P. F. Leavens, in 1870, for the benefit of mill workers residing in Dundee. For a quarter century it filled a want, but when Catholics crowded out Protestants, the church lost its usefulness, sold out to the Greek Catholics, moved to and erected the (now) Grace Church in 1903. But here it did not thrive and in 1910, sold its property to the Church of Jesus Christ, &c., otherwise known as Grace Church.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

The Catholics are fast growing in members and edifices, the particular histories of the more prominent and strongest are fully given in another part of this work. The great strides made by the Roman Catholics of recent years have been under the direction of Father Kernan, a warm, personal friend of the editor, who admires him for what he is, and the good work he has accomplished here. It was because of this admiration that the editor prepared a History of Catholicism in Passaic for the past two centuries, which is given under the title, *St. Nicholas Church*, set forth in Vol. 3 of this work.

In respect of Catholics the editor, although Protestant, desires to remark that, although the first settlers of the region treated of in this work were Protestants (who for more than one and a half centuries





controlled, outwardly, at least, religious affairs, most scrupulously, looking with aversion upon the Catholics, who in earlier days in New Jersey had been hunted, hounded and killed, for no other reason than that they were Catholics) they are not entitled to all the credit for good works accomplished in this vicinity, because even though ostracized the faithful priest courted death itself, by daring to visit the families of their faith living in the mining district, now in Passaic and Bergen counties, whence later they came to this vicinity to visit the laborers on the boats and docks; not only administering the rites and sacraments of their church, but preaching and advising to purer, holier living, making for better men. Monks have been lauded for their lives of seclusion, while copying the Bible, which is all very well. But these early New Jersey priests were heroes, who have never been lauded, but who are entitled to the praises, not only of Catholics but Protestants, as well, for the good morale of their followers, who were made better men by their teachings and example.

Catholic Churches other than those whose histories, with illustrations, are set forth in another part of this work:

#### ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, which owns a neat little church on McLean street. Its members are Italians, who, with Rev. Guiseppe Masi, priest, are attaining success and growth.

Of later organization is the Italian Assemblée Cristiana, which occupies rented quarters at 110 Columbia avenue.

Another Italian congregation is that of St. Anthony of Padova, an Apostolic Roman Independent church incorporated January 25, 1918, which owns a valuable property on Oak street where, in connection with religious work there is an Orphanage caring for children of all Italian parishioners, which has proved its need. The Rev. Constantino Bianchini is the priest in charge.

St. Stephen's, corner Third and Monroe streets, is composed of Hungarians under the pastoral care of the Rev. Joseph Marczinko. (There is also an Hungarian Baptist church).

*St. Nicholas, Ukranian*, which recently purchased the Calvary Baptist church building, President street, and where services are now held. Whether there is power in the name *St. Nicholas*, or only a charm, the Greek Catholics adopted it when they organized their *St. Nicholas Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church* and located in their own stately edifice on Van Buren street.

Slovak Society Under Protection of St. Francis Congregation Madonna SS. Dei Mirecoli Di Mussomeli.

#### GREEK CATHOLIC.

St. John the Baptist Magyar; Ruthenian Church of St. Nicholas;



S. S. Cyril and Methodius Slovak; Saint Trinity Hungarian; St. Nicholas Ruthenian (Ukranian).

#### THE JEWS.

While the designation, "Hebrews," may be considered a racial one, and "Israelites," as describing the same nation more from the side of their religious faith, the name "Jew" would seem, in modern usage, at least, to cover both of these distinct features of the life of this remarkable people. Each had its origin in a different period of its history. The word "Hebrew," first found in Genesis xiv:13, meant the foreigner which Pharaoh discovered in the infant Moses. Later they were called "Israel" when permission was asked to hold a religious festival to their God, and shortly after, "people of the children of Israel," and the "children of Israel." Of far later usage is the name "Jew," which came in use after the extinction of the Kingdom of Israel (720 B. C.), which left the Kingdom of Judah the sole representative in civilization of the people. Jews; descendants of the subjects of the old Kingdom of Judah.

Like the Hollanders, Hungarians or Magyars and peoples from other nations, who come from different districts of a nation, all Jews do not read, write nor speak the same language, and if the test applied to the Ephraimites, as recorded in Judges vii:6, were put by the true blue Hebrew, to the so-called Jew of today, many mighty men would fall. As a matter of fact there is a line of distinction running between the two which is becoming more marked as the years go by. The Hebrew writes, reads and speaks in Old Hebrew; reads his Bible-long chapters, and offers up prayers—an hour or more in length, daily; keeps the Law, (ten commandments) posted on his door post continually, and attends regularly all services at his synagogue, particularly on Saturdays, all of which he spends there in strict devotion. The devout orthodox sitting with shoes off, head and shoulders covered with sack-cloth, intently reading and reciting, half in song, from his Old Hebrew Bible. His very life, including its greatest joys and pleasures, is all bound up in his religion. Such men of whom there are scores in Passaic, are souls of integrity and honor; honest and truthful, spurning all evil, and whose word is as good as a bond. Passaic has cause to be proud of these Hebrews, who have done, and today are doing, much to advance the interests of the city materially and ethically. An orthodox Hebrew is a man well worth tying up to. Few younger men nowadays are identified with this type.

On the other hand, the Jews, commonly so-called, are altogether of a different type. Unlike the Old Hebrews, they all do not use the ancient language, which they make no attempt to learn. They seldom—some never—read the Old Hebrew Bible for a good reason—they cannot; still, they do have one they can read, but seldom do. They omit the law on





their door posts as well as daily prayers and seldom enter a place of worship. They attempt to imitate the lives and habits of Americans, as they interpret it, and are found today among the youth of both sexes in large and (to themselves) attractive numbers. Many of the insurance and real estate agents are of this type.

That Passaic has no beautiful Hebrew temple today is not because the Hebrews are unable financially to erect one, but for the reason that so many of the Jews are so given to material things as to be regardless of spiritual life. In 1913 an attempt was made to build one on a choice location on Prospect street, near Grove terrace, which was purchased for that purpose. But all efforts to raise money for the building failed, and the land was sold. The desire, however, still lives, and it is the conviction of Rabbi Elkin, and many others, including wealthy Christians, that before many years a beautiful temple will arise to make glad the Children of Israel.

The Hebrews of Passaic had no synagogue until 1889, previous to which they were obliged to go to Newark, or New York, to find a place in which to worship. Among the orthodox Hebrews here at that time was Moses Simon, who had come from Lodi twenty years before. He felt the need of a synagogue, and together with other men, looked about for a suitable place, which they discovered, and immediately filed, February 27, 1889, a certificate of incorporation of the *Congregation B'nai (Children of) Jacob*, to which a deed was obtained from the Holland Christian Reformed Congregation, of its church property, corner Washington place and Columbia avenue, which, ever since, has been their synagogue. Mr. Simon was placed in charge and assumed a Rabbi's functions, under whom there was prosperity and the congregation grew so rapidly as to make necessary the services of a man able to give all his time to the work, whereupon Rabbi Lippmann took charge and continued until his death.

The rapid growth of the city led to the incorporation, October 24, 1895, of the *Congregation Bechar Cholim*, which associated with its activities a school to teach Hebrew truths, history and religion to her youth; Bechar Cholim meaning, to care for, and report, the sick and sufferers. Following these came the *Chevre Tehelm Anshe Poalim* (Society to calm the working man); *Congregation Beth Israel*, (House of Israel); *Congregation of Young Judea*, (as distinguished from the Old Judea, or Israelites); *Hebrew Lebowitch Friendship Association Synagogue*, (Lebowitch is a Russian city where this association was founded); *Poale Zedeck Congregation*, (To secure justice in all disputes before resorting to courts); *Hebrew Sabbath and Sunday School*. Members of this school are strict observers of Sabbath, doing no work, engaging in no sport, refraining from smoking, carrying no umbrella or cane, speaking, eating and drinking in moderation thereon, because it is



God's day, which is followed by their observance of Sunday, because as one of them told the writer, "it is the law of the United States."

Other Jewish congregations are: Society of Machzicke Hadath; Chewry Bekor Cholym Anshei Galizien and Anshei; Russie, formerly the Hebrew Beecker Chola; Synagogue of Passaic; Congregation of Shamray Shabbus; Congregation of Adath Israel; Congregation of Chevra Tifers Visroel Anspe Astreich or Pride of Israel—People of Austria; Congregation Boker Choltm.

Judged by the number of her religious societies today, Passaic might very properly be called a city of churches. It is doubtful if any other city of her size equals her in this respect, able to show one for every thousand of population. This ratio was even greater some years ago, but for the past twenty-five years has remained stationary. Without doubt this accounts for the excellent morale and coveted good name of the city, credit for which should, in no small measure, be given to ministers, priests and rabbis who have not only preached but practiced a high standard of ethics. Not all of these societies own a house of worship; but this does not detract from the consolations of their particular faith, although handicapping their work. Many of the church edifices are imposing in size and beautiful to the eye both inside and out. While the membership of Protestant and Jewish congregations may be counted in hundreds, those of the Catholics (Roman and Greek) are numbered by the thousands. Last Easter over seven thousand attended one Roman Catholic church during the services held there that day.



## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### THE PASSAIC DAILY NEWS.

In 1877 Passaic, though its population had grown to 5,039, had no daily newspaper. It had two weeklies, *The Item*, started by Alfred Speer on July 9, 1870, and the *Passaic City Herald*, which Orrin Vanderhoven first brought out August 3, 1872. The new city was beginning to show evidences of the wonderful growth the future held for it, and there was one man in Passaic in that day who firmly believed there was a field for a daily newspaper.

Arthur Sawyer was then foreman of *The Item*. It was he who diagnosed the situation. After careful study, he consulted John B. Frost, a friend, laying before him his plan for establishing a daily newspaper, and the name it should bear. Mr. Frost, who was an accomplished writer, with literary aspirations, had been thinking along similar lines, and they soon agreed upon the venture. The selection of the name was left to Mr. Sawyer, who decided on *Passaic City Daily News*, with emphasis on the word *daily* to distinguish its columns from those furnishing only weekly news. Mr. Frost did not like the use of the word *City* in the title on the ground that it savored too much of the *Passaic City Herald*, but it was included, and it remained in the title until November 18, 1891, when it was dropped, without comment, and the title became *Passaic Daily News*, as it has remained to this day.

Messrs. Sawyer and Frost reached their agreement on Saturday evening, July 14, 1877. Preparations were begun immediately by renting a large room on the ground floor of the Howe building (now 659-661 Main avenue, Hobart building) where type cases, cutter and a Washington handpress of very primitive style were installed, ready for business. The first issue was struck off laboriously on the hand press Wednesday, August 1, 1877. Mr. Sawyer made up the forms and Mr. Frost wrote the salutatory. The paper came out in the late afternoon, to the surprise of many and the gratification of not a few. Wilfred E. Shuit was among the small boys vitally interested in what was going on in The News office, and who rushed out with a bundle of papers as soon as they were out.

The first issue consisted of four pages, eleven by sixteen inches, the two inside pages being printed sheet by sheet, by hand, in the morning, the same process being repeated for the two outside pages in the afternoon. The appearance of *The Daily News* on that historic day in Passaic's newspaperdom startled the town. Many welcomed its appearance, wishing success to the new and unheard of enterprise, but some thought the attempt to supplant the weekly papers with a sheet issued daily but containing no news of any account, would be short lived. All





alike, enthusiasts and skeptics, bought copies to preserve them, even if solely as evidence of an adventure in folly. Mr. Frost's editorial announcement was simple and in good taste:

"Although commencing with a small sheet, we are prepared to enlarge as soon as necessity demands, and we would ask our readers to bear in mind that 'large oaks from small acorns grow'."

Numbered among the advertisers on that first day were Dr. Charles M. Howe, dentist; Benevolent Lodge, Knights of Pythias; John P. Kohberger, tobacco; J. T. Van Iderstine, grocer; John Rosz, tailor; George W. Conkling, Jr., auctioneer; and Martin Costello, wholesale liquors.

In addition to publishing *The Daily News*, the business of job printing at which Mr. Sawyer was expert, was carried on under the partnership name of Frost & Sawyer. The two men remained together but two months, however. On October 1 Mr. Frost withdrew, not because of lack of faith in the enterprise, but because the profits were hardly enough to support one family, not to speak of two.

Mr. Sawyer was born in Tunbridge Wells, England, in 1840. In 1854 he went to New Zealand with his father and there he learned the trades of compositor and bookbinder. He became foreman in a large office, but his health failed and he left New Zealand on leave of absence for two years, intending at the time to return. In 1869 he visited England, and then made a trip to Canada where he recovered his health. He worked in Chicago, and after the great fire left for New York. On his way East he read an advertisement in a newspaper for a foreman in the office of *The Item*, answered it, and almost at once entered upon Mr. Speer's employ.

After Mr. Frost's retirement, Mr. Sawyer was sole proprietor, owner, editor and manager of *The Daily News*, building it up in public favor slowly but surely, working hard, offending no one, making friends all the while. By successive enlargements, the paper had reached the size of four pages, fifteen by twenty-two inches, and in 1884 the proprietor abandoned the old Washington handpress and installed *The Daily News's* first cylinder press, operated by steam power.

About the same time he decided he needed an editorial assistant and he hired Dennis W. Mahony, who for more than a decade dominated the paper. Each improvement in equipment was paid for in cash, when it was made, and thus, with scarcely any capital at the start, Mr. Sawyer built up a valuable newspaper property and an enviable reputation for himself. Just as the establishment was about to yield larger returns for his labor he was stricken ill, and he died on January 29, 1886. Few newspaper men have won such general commendation as Arthur Sawyer. He was the soul of honor and truth, devoid of petty prejudices, and he wronged no man.



"If nothing good can be said about a man, say nothing bad of him," was his newspaper policy.

Mr. Sawyer left no children, but his widow, Mrs. Kate Sawyer, continued the paper alone, without missing an issue, until January 31, 1889, when she sold out to the Passaic Daily News, a corporation of that name, incorporated that day by Mrs. Sawyer, George P. Rust and Dennis W. Mahony. Previous to this Mrs. Sawyer had endeavored to sell the property to the practical men then at the head of the business—Mr. Mahony, who became editor when Mr. Sawyer died; James O. Thurston, manager, and James T. Barker, engineer and pressman. This deal came within an ace of being made, in which event Colonel Barker would have become one of the owners then, instead of thirty years later. At the end of eight months Mrs. Sawyer sold her stock, September 30, 1889, and on that day a new company, Passaic Daily News Association, was incorporated by Walston R. Brown, George P. Rust, Robert M. Offord, and Mr. Mahony. Under the virile editorship of Dennis W. Mahony, *The Daily News* came to have a foremost position in county and state affairs. It was Mr. Mahony who interested George P. Rust in *The Daily News*. Mr. Rust, then a rising young attorney, had no thought of acquiring the property, as he afterward did, but he and the editor discussed the problems of the day, and Mr. Mahony got Mr. Rust to thinking the newspaper was a good investment. The manager at this time was Ozias S. Freeman, who succeeded Mr. Thurston. Mr. Freeman remained only a year, leaving to publish his magazine, as related herein under "Other Newspapers." On February 1, 1889, there was a reorganization. Robert M. Offord, who won countrywide fame as general manager of the *Observer*, a New York periodical, had gone into the local field, starting the *Passaic Daily Star*. Shortly before (February 4, 1889), Joseph F. Morris had replaced the defunct *Daily Times* with the *Daily Messenger*. Both men had unique ideas, and they came together, merging the two dailies on September 3, 1889, under the name of the *Star*. The proprietors of *The Daily News* saw a chance to eliminate the rival *Star* by buying it out. This was done, and Messrs. Offord and Morris merged the *Star* and themselves with *The Daily News*. On November 4, 1889, Messrs. Brown, Rust, Mahony and Offord filed a certificate incorporating The News Publishing Company, bearing date November 1, 1889, when the first meeting of the directors of the new company, which was destined to put *The Daily News* upon the map of newspaperdom, was held. Of the incorporators, Walston R. Brown held 470 shares, Robert M. Offord 370 shares, Dennis W. Mahony 81 shares and George Philip Rust 74 shares, the shares having a par value of \$20. Mr. Rust was made president and Editor Mahony secretary. Immediately the News Publishing Company authorized the purchase from the Passaic Daily News Association of *The Daily News* and its properties for the sum of \$12,500, and the *Star* and its combination of week-





lies (the creations of Joseph F. Morris) from Mr. Offord and Mr. Morris for \$5,000. Mr. Offord and Mr. Morris both became stockholders, directors and officers. Mr. Offord was made general manager upon the organization of the News Publishing Company, but gave way to Mr. Morris in this capacity May 1, 1890. Mr. Offord for several years gave *The Daily News* much of his thought and for a time was assistant editor under Mr. Mahony.

On May 25, 1890, the home of Dr. Charles A. Church, occupying the present site of The Daily News at Main avenue and Prospect street, was purchased and bids were asked for the construction of the News building. This building, then the largest and finest in the city, was occupied in November, 1891. In it were born the Peoples Bank and Trust Company (which had already had a brief life in Van Riper's block as the State Trust and Safe Deposit Company), the Hobart Trust Company, the Board of Trade, the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Company, and several building and loan associations. All the important offices in the city were then located in the News building, which was the pride of the city. The entire building was not erected by the News Publishing Company, however. The News building itself had a frontage of twenty-four feet. The remaining twenty feet represent what was for a short time called the Bogart building. Colonel Gilbert D. Bogart put up this half of the structure with a party wall between them. On February 19, 1892, the News Publishing Company purchased the Bogart building, and soon after that Colonel Bogart became a stockholder of *The Daily News*. Other stockholders about this time included William Malcolm, Thomas M. Moore, Frank Hughes, C. Eugene MacChesney and George C. Mercer.

Up to this time *The Daily News* had consisted of four pages. Now the first modern machinery was purchased. A Scott web perfecting press was installed, together with a stereotyping equipment, and the first issue as an eight-page paper was that of October 25, 1895. It was in this year that Mr. Rust bought the control of the company. He first purchased the stock interest of George C. Mercer, giving in exchange therefor a farm in Lodi. Soon after he acquired also the holdings of Messrs. Brown, Offord, Morris and the rest, with the exception of the small block still held by Mrs. Sawyer and the holdings of Mr. Mahony. Mrs. Sawyer did not sell her stock until April 4, 1906. Mr. Morris left *The Daily News* in July, 1895, and on November 6, 1895, he brought out the first issue of his *Passaic Daily Journal*, which had a precarious life for a year. In October, 1897, *The Daily News* purchased the first linotype machine used in Passaic county, all type having been composed by hand prior to that time.

Joseph F. Morris was succeeded as manager by William J. Pape, who came with the paper as a reporter soon after leaving High School, January, 1891, and who became manager in July, 1895, and editor on





1. ARTHUR SAWYER  
Founder and First Editor  
August 1, 1877—June 29, 1886

4. WILLIAM J. PAPE  
Third Editor  
October 1, 1897—October 14, 1901

3. PASSAIC DAILY NEWS BUILDING

2. DENNIS W. MAHONY  
Second Editor  
June 29, 1886—October 1, 1897

5. GEORGE M. HARTT  
Present Editor





October 1, 1897, when Editor Mahony resigned, having been appointed postmaster. Mr. Pape brought with the paper as manager, Edward W. Berry.

In the spring of 1896 George M. Hartt, present editor, joined the staff of *The Daily News*, and he soon became city editor. Mr. Hartt, who was born in New York, December 10, 1877, came to Passaic at the age of eight and was graduated from High School in June, 1895. He joined the staff of Morris's ill-fated *Daily Journal* on its first publication day and was with it three months. Then, after three months with a monthly publication in New York, he came with *The Daily News*. On October 10, 1900, he went to Paterson where he served a year on the *Morning Call*, being recalled October 14, 1901, to become editor of *The Daily News*, when Mr. Pape went to Connecticut and purchased, with William M. Lathrop, of the *Paterson Press*, the *Waterbury Republican*.

Edward W. Berry continued as manager until September 1, 1905, when he resigned to enter the profession of science, and was succeeded by James Warbasse. Mr. Warbasse left April 15, 1906, to take over the *Glorers Review*, and Colonel James T. Barker, then superintendent of the book and job department, became general manager.

With the sudden death of George P. Rust, on April 21, 1913, Charles Rust, his brother, became proprietor, and it was Charles Rust who sold the property to the present management.

The presiding officers of the News Publishing Company were: George P. Rust, elected November 1, 1889; Gilbert D. Bogart, elected November 6, 1893; George P. Rust, elected October 31, 1895; Edward W. Berry, elected February 18, 1898; George P. Rust, elected September 16, 1905; Charles Rust, elected April 28, 1913; George M. Hartt, elected October 25, 1917.

Two days after the last date above, the purchase of the property of the News Publishing Company was completed and *The Daily News* passed to a new corporation, The Passaic Daily News, (the name given the corporation on January 31, 1889), which had been created for the purpose on April 17, 1917. At this time a number of citizens became identified with the newspaper as stockholders, but the management continued the same, Mr. Hartt becoming president as well as editor, and Colonel Barker secretary and treasurer as well as general manager. Messrs. Hartt and Barker being the majority stockholders, the control of the newspaper returned to the hands of practical newspaper men, as it had been for a decade at the beginning under Arthur Sawyer.

Rudolph E. Lent came with *The Passaic Daily News* as secretary February 1, 1919. On January 24, 1922, Colonel Barker retired from the active management and Mr. Lent was elected treasurer and general manager. The stock control of the company thereupon became vested in Messrs. Hartt and Lent. Mr. Lent was born in Washington, D. C., January 20, 1891. He left Central High School after his junior year to





enter the University of Wisconsin, class of 1912, but transferred to Princeton in 1910 and was graduated there in 1912 with the degree Litt. B. Coming to Passaic upon the invitation of Victor L. Mason, Mr. Lent served as secretary of the Board of Trade in 1912, 1913 and 1914, and as general manager of the Mead Gas Heater Company in 1915, 1916 and a part of 1917. He entered the military service in 1917 and was graduated from the Ground School, Air Service, Ithaca, N. Y., with honors after three months' training and was transferred to Kelly Field, San Antonio, for flying training. He was commissioned second lieutenant with status of reserve military aviator, but was not called for service overseas.

In the past ten years *The Daily News* has made remarkable progress. The old eight-page press installed in 1895 lasted until October 25, 1907, when a modern Hoe press with a capacity of twenty pages turned out its first edition—the first twenty-page issue of a Passaic newspaper. Even this press proved inadequate, and ten years later it was necessary to put in a high speed press. This machine, a Hoe Simplex, ran off its first edition on November 26, 1917. It will print up to sixteen pages at a speed of 30,000 copies an hour, and from sixteen to thirty-two pages at a speed of 15,000. On October 26, 1920, the size of the paper was increased from eight columns to nine columns. On December 16, 1921, *The Daily News* published the largest issue of a daily paper ever printed in Passaic. This issue required the full capacity of its press equipment. It contained thirty-two pages and it required twelve tons of newsprint paper to run off the edition. *The Daily News* had grown rapidly in circulation. The small paper of 1907, with a circulation of less than 4,000 copies, was printing more than 10,000 copies daily when this article was written.

*The Daily News*, among its many activities, has worked for the social, moral and material interests of Passaic and its neighboring communities. It was the only paper to hammer the life out of Clifton race track and was one of the forces that contributed to the political overturn when New Jersey became Republican and John W. Griggs was elected Governor in 1896. In 1890 it prepared, published and circulated 10,000 copies of "Passaic Illustrated." Its efforts to advertise the city in this way were continued, and in 1899 it published, with the collaboration of William W. Scott, "The News History of Passaic," and again in 1911 it published a Prosperity Number, replete with articles of historic value.

*The Daily News* is today one of New Jersey's leading newspapers. Its equipment is modern in every respect. Its news, business and mechanical departments are efficiently operated for the production of a daily newspaper, and many special correspondents are maintained in addition to the full leased wire service of the Associated Press.

A long chapter might be written on the achievements of *The Daily*



*News.* In 1898 it reported the Spanish War by special leased wire, an unheard of thing then, and it was over this wire that *The Daily News* sent the electrifying news on June 18, 1899, that little Marion Clark, kidnapped by her nurse, had been found in the Ramapo mountains. In 1899 *The Daily News* led a long fight for better and cheaper gas and water. This fight brought decided results, and Mayor Charles M. Howe, said:

"It would have been impossible without the aid of *The Daily News*."

Many battles have been waged for better and cheaper public utilities; ninety cent gas was won for the whole State; the fight for a small Board of Freeholders was won; the battle to prevent the expropriation of State lands in the "Slank" resulted in doubling the area of First Ward Park; the fight for Commission Government resulted in the overthrow of the old Councilmanic system in all the important cities of the State. *The Daily News's* greatest opportunity for service came, of course, during the World War, and the need for a world-wide news service was solved May 14, 1917, when *The Daily News* was elected to membership in The Associated Press.





## CHAPTER XL.

### NEWSPAPERDOM.

*Item.* Previous to the incorporation of Passaic village in 1869, no newspaper was published here. But the influx of new blood into the arteries of business, which began to pulsate with new life, created a demand for a home paper, which was responded to by Alfred Speer, who established *The Item*, the first number of which was issued July 9, 1870. It was a four-page paper at first, and gradually increased to eight, when it reached its greatest prosperity in 1877. It was a weekly paper, costing two dollars a year.

Although Republican in politics, the paper was read also by Democrats. It was newsy, keeping the villagers posted on public and private affairs. Mr. Speer was full of civic pride, and did his best to advance the material interests of, first, the village, and then the city. He did not always agree with the policies of the council, whom he did not hesitate to scold as often as he thought was necessary. The establishment of *The Daily News* in August, 1877,\* sounded the death-knell of *The Item*, which, however, was continued regularly for several years, when regular issues ceased and it appeared only occasionally, simply as a medium to advertise various wines made by Mr. Speer, until 1906, when publication ceased.

The second newspaper to be launched upon the village waters was the *Passaic Sentinel*, established by James C. Sigler, who for several years had been foreman for Orrin Vanderhoven on the *Paterson Guardian*, which he left, came to Passaic about December 1, 1871, set up a printing office in an old stone house on the site of the present 163, 165 Prospect street, where the paper was printed, whence its first issue came forth December 16, 1871. The paper was issued on Thursdays, and consisted of four pages, twelve by sixteen inches, whose publication continued until August 29, 1872, when the *Passaic Weekly Herald*, established by Vanderhoven, who had also left Paterson for Passaic, robbed the *Sentinel* of its patrons and Sigler closed up, went to Clifton and started *The Echo*, which soon died.

*Herald.* In 1872 Orrin Vanderhoven, who (1854 to 1872) published the *Paterson Guardian*, sold that paper for \$50,000, came to Passaic, invested his money in a plot of land on Main avenue, erected a building thereon, equipped a printing plant therein, and on August 3, 1872, issued the *Passaic City Herald*, flying the Democratic emblem.

The *Gazette*, fourth in order of birth, was first issued November 20, 1872, by John Knox, and published monthly at fifty cents a year. It was purely literary, contained little local news on its four pages, ten by

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\* See preceding chapter.



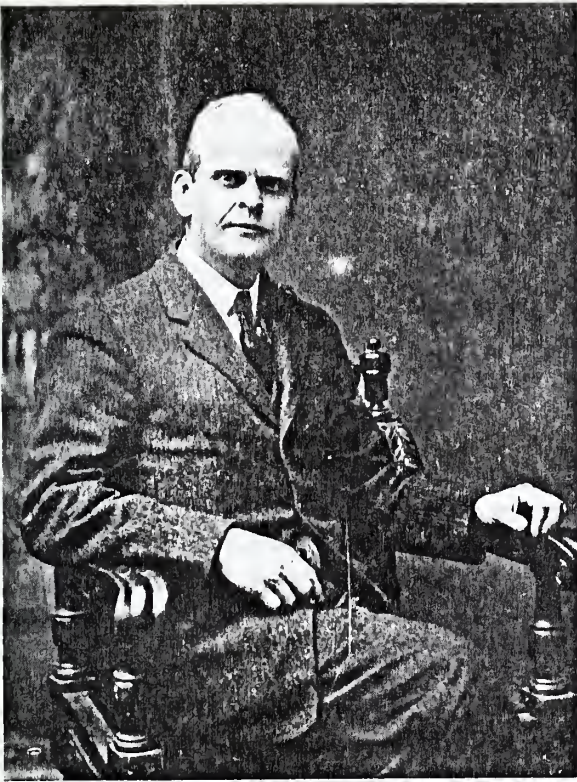
fifteen inches. When its gratuitous contributors began to lose interest and dropped off, the paper led off as the first to be laid in the newspaper graveyard, lasting only a few months.

Vanderhoven's intention was to stifle *The Item* also, and with that in view, he began an attack upon Mr. Speer, lampooning him "Old Elderberry Juice," and condemning his wines. Speer allowed him to keep up his attacks, which were relentless, until enough had been published to convict Mr. Vanderhoven of libel. In 1875 Speer brought suit and recovered a verdict for \$10,000. To satisfy this his real estate and printing plant were sold by the sheriff, but not the *Herald*, which Speer permitted him to keep, by which to earn a living. Vanderhoven then took Joseph E. Crowell (who had been editor of *The Item* and *Guardian*, and later of the *Paterson Morning Call*), as partner, who remained during 1876-7. Crowell was succeeded by Joseph F. Morris (who followed Arthur Sawyer as foreman on *The Item*, 1877). Vanderhoven and Morris, at the present 686 Main avenue, issued the *Herald* weekly until June 25, 1881, when Morris withdrew, leaving Mr. Vanderhoven, as he had been a decade before, the sole editor and owner. But finding the work too exacting, he again (1882) took a former partner on his *Paterson Guardian* twelve years before, to share the work, profits and losses—Alvin Webb, an efficient man, who remained for five years. In the meanwhile the printing plant was removed to the northwest corner of Prospect street and Bloomfield avenue, less than 200 feet from the brand new plant of Morris, who and Vanderhoven had so soon become mortal enemies.

In 1887 Mr. Webb withdrew, leaving Vanderhoven sole owner and editor, who continued to publish the old *Passaic City Herald* every Saturday, without assistance until the fall of 1893, when he again took a partner; upon which hangs a tale. Horse racing on Clifton race track had flourished until 1890, when a campaign for a law prohibiting it was started by Rev. Dr. Leavens, pastor of the local Presbyterian Church, who succeeded in having such law enacted. Even so, Mr. George H. Engeman, owner and proprietor of the track, continued the racing and betting, and this caused his indictment, January 9, 1891, which, being quashed, led to a second indictment twenty days later, under which he was tried, found guilty and fined \$5,000, which he paid before leaving the court room. He had closed the track on the nineteenth. Mr. Engeman had an idea that the law could be repealed if the public were educated to his way of thinking, to accomplish which he would require newspaper assistance, and so it came about that he purchased a half interest in the *Herald* for his son, Frank, who, with Vanderhoven, became proprietors of the paper, the name of which, on November 1, 1893, was changed to that of the *Evening Edition of the Passaic City Herald*, in large, uniform type. This experiment proved worthless, and at the end of 1893, Frank withdrew, with nothing but experience on his credit







EMMETT A. BRISTOL

WILLIAM M. McBRIDE

CENTRAL AVENUE VIEW PASSAIC DAILY HERALD





side of the firm ledger, leaving Vanderhoven again the sole proprietor and owner, who, on January 2, 1894, issued the paper in a new dress and name. It then appeared for the first time as the *Passaic Daily Herald*, and as such was published by Vanderhoven until May 1, 1898, when he sold out to Dennis W. Mahoney, Fred C. Clough and Mary M. Hance, for \$3,500, and retired. These three, by certificate dated June 16, 1898, incorporated the Herald Publishing Company, to which the paper and plant were immediately transferred. Mr. Mahoney, then postmaster, had for eleven years been editor of the *News* until October 1, 1897, when he resigned newspaper work forever. But he had a newspaper man's mind and could not silence the desire to go into it again, and this was the result.

In 1899 Mr. Clough sold his stock to our old newspaper friend, Joseph F. Morris, who became manager. Mr. Mahoney retained control of the paper himself, after May 1, 1900, (when Mr. Morris left town), and continued publication to May 15, 1906, when he conveyed the plant and paper to *Passaic Herald Printing Company*, composed of Robert G. and Edith L. Bremner and Hugh C. Lendrim, by whom the paper continued to be published. Mr. Bremner was a straight out-and-out Democrat, became popular with that party and was elected to Congress where he became President Wilson's personal friend, by whom he was highly regarded. He was a keen observer, good judge of men and of pleasing personality. To the surprise and sorrow of all who knew him, malignant cancer got hold of him, increased rapidly and in a short time caused his death.

For a short time after his death the paper and business were continued without interruption by Mr. Bremner's brother—a lawyer of Baltimore, who was instrumental in effecting a sale to the Passaic Herald Company, incorporated May 22, 1915, by Emmett A. Bristol, Eugene L. Hart and Charles Slaff. Mr. Bristol was the real purchaser, and thereupon became, and still is, editor.

#### OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

*Passaic Daily.* Although a dozen different Passaic newspapers were started on their fateful career, all did not get far on their way ere newspaper blight o'ertook them; a stroll through the Morris newspaper graveyard may teach a warning to him who ventures. When Morris left the old *Weekly Herald*, he incorporated, June 27, 1881, the Passaic Printing and Publishing Company, which on July 1, 1881, issued the *Passaic Daily*, a Democratic paper, although five of its seven directors and Morris, the editor, were Republicans, intent on beating *The Daily News*, whose continued growth made them envious. *The Passaic Daily*, for one year, was issued from the *Herald* office, with Alvin Webb as manager. The Passaic Printing and Publishing Company, soon (theoretically), outgrew the old *Herald* quarters, and erected in the early



summer of 1882, a two-storied building at the southwest corner of Prospect street and Howe avenue. In the meantime Vanderhoven, having sold out his interest, retired to the corner of the same street and Bloomfield avenue, where he opened a print shop of his own, Morris remaining with the company, secured a lease for three years of the equipment and building into which he moved July 8, 1882, taking with him the *Passaic Daily*, whose name carried no magic, and in which its old supporters had lost interest, and the paper was already proving a bad venture. To overcome this he abandoned that name and organized and adopted the *Passaic Daily Times*.

*Passaic Daily Times* first issued from this new building, July 1, 1882. On April 4, 1883, Morris, in order to keep his plant busy, issued the *Passaic Bridge Advance* and *The Rambler*. Both ceased existence by July. *The Rambler* was a weekly, the other bi-weekly. But there was much trouble ahead. The Passaic Printing and Publishing Company owed many bills for type and machinery, upon which judgments were recovered, and Lawyer Scott was appointed Receiver December 16, and on December 24, 1883, sold at auction all the type and machinery of the company to Morris for \$450, subject to two chattel mortgages. Morris did not succeed any better by change of name. His supporters dropped away and he was soon left alone to operate an expensive newspaper plant, which as is well known, will eat up more money and faster than any establishment four or six times its size. Morris was full of ideas and had big supplies of theories and ideas, but no money. One of the chattel mortgages, subject to which he had purchased the plant, was held by the firm of Todd and Rafferty, friends of Vanderhoven, who lived in the hope of Morris' failure. When this took too much time, as he thought, he determined to force it, and after much eager persuasion, induced the holders of the mortgage to delegate him to take out the machines, because Morris had defaulted. Armed with this authority Vanderhoven appeared with a gang of men and truck, January 25, 1885. Morris would not admit them and Vanderhoven broke open the door for which he was arrested and held to bail while his gang fled. Several law suits followed to relieve himself from which and the mortgage of Todd and Rafferty, Morris paid several thousand dollars which he borrowed from his lawyer, Thomas M. Moore, who in May, 1886, was forced to accept the paper and plant for the money owing him. He organized the Dundee Publishing Company, which conducted the paper and business. Mr. Harry R. Wells was editor for the month of May, when Lawyer Scott, who in the interest of Mr. Moore, had been manager since March, became editor, remaining such until October 12, 1886, when the paper and plant were sold to the Vogt Brothers, old newspaper men of Morristown, for \$4,000. They got what they bargained for—a paper with less than 100 copies printed daily—but believed they could increase the circulation into the thousands, which





for over a year they tried hard to do, but were able to reach only two hundred and fifty, when they decided to sell out, which they did, to Daniel T. Elmer, October 31, 1887, for \$3,500, giving back a chattel mortgage for \$3,000. Elmer published only three issues (one of which contained a libel) and then closed the shop, concluding it would not pay, and advertised the plant and paper for sale. He had waited sixteen days for an answer when the sheriff served him with a summons in a libel suit. On the advice of his lawyer he wrote and mailed a letter of retraction to the libelant, and the next day departed for home, never to return. Vogt Brothers took possession of the plant and defunct newspaper, and that ended the *Times* forever.

Morris obtained a lease of the old *Times* plant and immediately after Mr. Elmer's failure started a combination weekly newspaper and by changing the title of the paper in every issue from the *General Advertiser* to the *Lodi* or *Garfield* or *Clifton*, or other locality, he made the one issue the paper of those various places. *The General Advertiser*, as the title for Passaic was known, made its first appearance December 1, 1887, and continued to be issued until September 3, 1889.

Although Morris was in no sense a newspaper man—simply a job printer in a small way—he became obsessed with a desire to be at the head of a live daily paper, such, for instance, as *The Daily News*, of whose success he was exceedingly jealous. As the first step in this direction he started the *Daily Messenger*, which made its appearance for the first time February 4, 1889, and continued in existence just seven months, or until September 3, 1889, when Morris sold his printing plant, the *Daily Messenger* and combination papers, to Robert M. Offord, an accredited and ordained minister of the Reformed Church, in which capacity he had served the Second Reformed Church, Lodi, ten years, up to this time. He (on the same day), changed the name to *Passaic Evening Star*, and he facetiously announced the description of the paper as follows: "It is not to be a shooting star, nor a falling star, nor, for that matter, a twinkling star, but a fixed star."

The title of the paper on its first page was, the *Passaic Evening Star*, and on its editorial page *Passaic Evening Star and Passaic Daily Messenger*, and as such was published regularly, and had begun to be popular with the reading public, bidding fair to become a strong rival of *The Daily News*. To prevent this, the little paper was merged in the *News*, on May 21, 1890, and ceased existence. Mr. Offord became a stockholder in, and Mr. Morris manager of the *News*.

Mr. Morris still had the itch for a daily paper of his own, and after the lapse of over four years, left the *News* and on November 6, 1895, launched the *Passaic Daily Journal*, only to place it alongside of his other productions in the newspaper graveyard, July 31, 1896, and in disgust Mr. Morris left Passaic that fall, never to return.

It will be observed that these various newspapers were the off-



springs, indirectly, of the *Weekly Herald*, from which Mr. Morris severed his connection for the purpose of squelching that paper by establishing a rival Democratic sheet, which he did his best to do, but failed most disastrously.

In the year 1885 a temperance crusade began in Passaic and continued for three years, with wonderful results. Among the converts was Harry R. Wells, who became a mighty power in the work of reforming intemperate men, in whose interests he organized the "Temperance Reform Club," which was a success in every way from its inception, receiving financial as well as moral support from all classes. Headquarters, never closed, were maintained in charge of Mr. Wells at a good salary. The surprising success of the temperance cause led, not only Mr. Wells, but his financial supporters to the belief that a newspaper devoted to the cause would be of great assistance. This led to the legal incorporation of "*The Echo*, a Passaic County Temperance Paper." Mr. Wells was the editor, who sent forth its first issue April 8, 1886. The paper was an excellent one and for a few months thrived. But the public interest, and that of the Reform Club, began to be reflected in the supporters of the paper who, one by one, dropped off until none was left—not even the editor, to publish the last issue of October 8, 1886, which was gotten up by Moore and Scott, who had been supporters of the paper. With the extinction of *The Echo* the newspaper field awaited for a newcome-on until, January 23, 1891, *Passaic Opinion* made its appearance under the Rev. S. Fielder Palmer, a former Congregational minister, who had a witty way of amusing his readers by word, and cartoons, whose subjects were men, places and things, then in the public eye. It was welcomed. He continued as proprietor and editor until December 18, 1891, when the publication was turned over to the aforementioned Rev. Robert M. Offord, who found he had not the time to give it the attention that was necessary, to maintain the standard set by Mr. Palmer, and after his fourth issue, January 8, 1892, sent it to the newspaper graveyard.

To supply a religious weekly which Passaic never had had before nor since, Mr. Arthur C. Meade established the *Passaic Observer*, the first issue of which came out October 17, 1894. But as the need was not so great as expected, its remains were sent to the newspaper graveyard by the first of the new year.

On May 1, 1896, the *Passaic Gospel Mission Echoes* appeared and continued irregularly monthly, for several years, and is presumed to be still alive, although rarely seen.

Thinking that Passaic needed a Sunday newspaper, John F. Wynne and Fred Geisert issued the *Sunday Transcript* on May 31, 1896. Mr. Wynne was editor and Mr. Geisert manager. They saw their mistake almost as soon as the first issue left the press and immediately made arrangements to have it interred in the newspaper graveyard.







DOW H. DRUKKER

JAMES H. WALDEN

LEXINGTON AVENUE VIEW  
PASSAIC DAILY HERALD

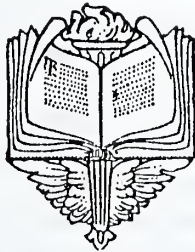




There remained two unfilled graves in the yard, to fill which *The Commissioner*, a weekly publication, made its appearance August 11, 1911, but a severe attack of hot head prepared it for the mortuarian before October 1, when a paper bearing *The Issue*, as a title, took its place, not weekly, but monthly, in order to avoid all risk of hot head, only to be frozen to death before December snows had a chance to interfere with the pleasure of mourners at its burial, who were headed by Mr. D. S. Webster, the editor.

It is apparent from the foregoing, that the ideas, theories and workings of all these scribes and journalists, were confined to newspapers, and not the magazine field. A young man then on the once famous *New York Observer* conceived the idea of founding a monthly magazine bearing his name. Active thereon, he left the *Observer*, came to Passaic, and, on January 1, 1879, issued the first number of *Freeman's Monthly Magazine*, a clean, well gotten-up publication, which he maintained in magazine form of twenty-six pages, each six by nine inches, until April 28, 1890, when it was changed to newspaper form and so continued existence to October, 1907, when Mr. Freeman left Passaic.

*Passaic Wochenblatt*, now in its thirty-second year, was established by Captain Otto, in 1890, who three years later sold to Morris Lindenstruth, at 269 Passaic street, where it is still published. Mr. Lindenstruth died in December, 1902; since then the paper has been issued without interruption by his widow, Maria Emmy. The paper is popular with the Germans of this city and vicinity among whom it has a large circulation which constantly increases as the paper improves.





## CHAPTER XLI.

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

March 16, 1884, the Board of Freeholders attempted to celebrate the bi-centennial of the granting of the Patent of Acquackanonk, and the coming of the first settlers. The board and twenty other men composed the audience in the Old First Church. Among them was a Mr. A. Swan Brown, who was impressed with the importance of the event, of which the board made a fizzle. The more he thought of it the more he saw the necessity of a local association of men to manage an affair of this kind, and to study other needs of the city. This led to the organization, in 1885, of the Citizens' Improvement Association, which on June 12, 1886, celebrated the aforesaid bi-centennial in a way that made of it an event that took many columns of New York newspapers to describe, thereby giving to Passaic the most extensive advertising and in the most lavish way, in pen and picture, ever before or since known. Upon this occasion the Governor, his staff military companies and distinguished men were here, and joined in a mile-long procession enlivened by many brass bands, ending in a grand banquet at which the praises of Passaic were sung as never before or since. Passaic felt the good effect of this and prospered.

Mr. Brown was the first president. He was noted for wonderful conception and activity. It was during his incumbency that Passaic found a place on the maps, which led to the coming of the great Botany Worsted mills in 1889.

In 1891 the name was changed to Board of Trade. Mr. Brown was succeeded by William H. Gillen, who was anything but a progressive as Brown had been. Thomas A. R. Goodlatte, Moses E. Worthen, William C. Kimball, John T. Granger, Frank Hughes, Bird W. Spencer, D. W. Mahony followed as presidents.

Mr. Mahony, being postmaster, had not the time to devote to the much-needed work of the Board, and was succeeded in 1901, by Mr. Perley M. Berry as president, assisted by William Malcolm, treasurer, and Edward B. Maynard, secretary. They accomplished very little, and in 1901 Dr. C. A. Church was elected to succeed Berry and W. G. Bateman became secretary. Only one meeting was held in this year, and the Board was practically dead. In 1902 it was re-organized by the election of Judge W. W. Watson, president; Mr. Alfred Speer (seventy-six years old) treasurer, and Mr. Mahony, secretary. But this so-called re-organization was such only in name. In the opinion of the writer, Judge Watson has no peer among the legal luminaries of the state, but as president of the Board of Trade he was unsuccessful as was Alfred Speer treasurer. From bad, the business of the Board





for the next four years became worse, and well nigh ceased existence.

In view of the continued growth of the city and the many matters requiring attention, it was considered necessary to again re-organize in order to put more pep into the Board. This was done February 16, 1906, when Victor L. Mason, a real live wire, was elected president; James C. Shearman, treasurer, and Mr. Mahony, secretary. As expected, Mr. Mason put renewed life into the organization, which began "to do things" under his inspiration. In 1907 Mr. Mason and Mr. Mahony were re-elected, and Mr. Shearman having died, Mr. Richard J. Scoles was elected treasurer.

In 1908 the same officers were continued in office. In 1909 Messrs. Mason and Scoles were re-elected, and Charles F. H. Johnson became secretary. There was no change in the officers during 1910, 1911 and 1912, until the accidental death of Mr. Mason, in May, 1912, led to the election of Mr. Johnson as president; Rudolph E. Lent, secretary, and Mr. Scoles, treasurer. Messrs. Johnson and Scoles continued in office until 1920. Mr. George Young, Jr., served as secretary during 1915 and 1916, followed by Mr. E. R. Geddes in 1917 to 1920. The banquet held June 15, 1916, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization, was the grandest affair of its kind ever held in our city.

In 1920, Mr. John M. Campbell was elected president, Mr. Scoles treasurer, and Mr. Geddes secretary. The old original association and its succeeding Board of Trade were made up of the best of Passaic's professional and business men, who gave freely of their time and talents to advance her interests. Some of Passaic's best and greatest measures, either originated with or were fathered by this old Board of Trade, to which the city owes gratitude. Among some of the most important measures thus advocated might be mentioned: The introduction of the best sewer system in the world; attempt to annex Clifton, which failed because Paterson opposed it; securing an appropriation of \$25,000 for a postoffice site, after a battle lasting six years and culminating February 13, 1913. This postoffice battle, led personally by Victor L. Mason, until his death in May, 1912, and thereafter by Charles F. H. Johnson, was a most strenuous one, the credit for the success of which is due in no small measure to Mr. Johnson, then president of the Board. Previous to this the Board worked to establish our public library; Shade Tree Commission; Arbor Day;; Manual Training School; Passaic river purification and improving navigation. Everything was done to secure the trolley (the first in this state, and whose promoter was Mr. W. R. Brown, member of the Board, and mayor). The Park system originated with this Board, the climax of whose activities was reached in securing the attendance of the President of the United States, William H. Taft, at a banquet held in Turn Hall, Hope avenue, April 25, 1910; securing a playgrounds association; the first to advocate Commission Government, and conducting preliminaries that led to its first



primary election; insisting upon placing of electric wires underground; laboring for a garbage disposal, which resulted in the present incinerator; strong on the trunk sewer, even though one of its members, Mr. William L. Lyall, in June, 1911, offered to bet William S. Ackerman, one of the commissioners having in charge the construction of the sewer, that it would not be built in ten years. The bet was not taken.

The Board was not lacking in attempts, to keep step in the march towards advancing the interests of the city in everything that spelled improvement. On May 28, 1915, at a "Board of Trade Night" meeting, largely attended, in the auditorium of the High School, Acting Governor Walter E. Edge spoke on the "Housing Conditions in New Jersey," and Dr. Jeremiah W. Jenks, of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, gave an interesting talk on: "The Relation of the Government Toward Public Enterprise, in Education, Parcels Post, Telephone, Electric Railways and Housing," which proved instructive. On June 15, 1916, the Board celebrated the anniversary of its twenty-fifth birthday by a grand dinner attended by two hundred and fifty men and women, at which Mr. Johnson was the toastmaster, and addresses made by three ex-mayors—Howe, McLean and Low—Mayor Seger, and Lawyer-Historian William W. Scott. The notoriety given Passaic by this and like functions brought two factories, several auto concerns and many new families, proving their worth.

The reason that Passaic has had no pawn shop is that this board was unalterably opposed thereto. The reciprocal state auto law for New Jersey had its origin here as well as the campaign for the best roads over the state. The plan of having a municipal Christmas tree, erected in and upon Main avenue, originated with this board, which was the first to advocate and insist upon a safe and sane Fourth of July. The Work-Study-Play-School owes its introduction here, in Passaic, to this board, which was at the expense of a public exhibition by motion pictures of the work carried on in schools of this kind, and which have proved so beneficial to the children of mill employees in particular. Subsequent to the banquet of 1916, when one of the speakers emphasized the necessity of teaching local history in our public schools, the board had continued to agitate that question, even going so far as to recommend the compilation of a manual of local history, to be taught in the public schools. There is every reason to believe that this will be done in 1923, thus adding one more to the many permanent accomplishments of the old Board of Trade. Unfortunately all the minutes, manuscripts and data of all kinds of the Citizens' Improvement Association have been destroyed, and the minutes previous to 1909 of the Board of Trade, together with manuscripts and all data of that body cannot be found. This explains the difficulty and impossibility of writing a full history of either organization. Such as is herein set forth is compiled from data of the editor.





At the beginning of 1921, which completed the thirtieth year of its existence, it was the general opinion and desire of many members that the old board of trade should be re-organized not only in name, but in its constitution and by-laws, of more modern types. At a meeting of May 4, 1921, the directors resolved to submit the question to the members, who at a meeting held June 23, voted in favor of re-organization, which was then effected, under the name of Passaic Chamber of Commerce. All persons of good moral character, over twenty-one years of age, by paying twenty-five dollars a year, may become members. Richard Morrell was elected president; Thomas K. Brown, Jr., secretary, and George Young, Jr., treasurer.

On July 6, 1921, the polls for the final election of directors for the new Chamber of Commerce closed at 7 o'clock, and about twenty tellers immediately set to work to see who was who. The result of the counting disclosed the following:

Of the thirty-two persons on the list to be voted, the sixteen elected were: For two years—1. Richard J. Scoles, 319; 2. Richard Morrell, 299; 3. Alfred R. Barton, 274; 4. Arthur S. Corbin, 261; 5. William Abbott, 250; 6. John M. Campbell, 246; 7. Henry C. Whitehead, 224; 8. Robert Dix Benson, 209.

For one year—9. George N. Seger, 186; 10. Christian Bahnsen, 182; 11. Henry V. R. Scheel, 181; 12. Dow H. Drukker, 179; 13. Isaac W. England, 178; 14. George L. Leonhard, 178; 15. Rev. William Doidge, 170; 16. Robert D. Kent, 170. There were 435 votes cast. Subsequently Bahnsen, Benson, Kent and Scheel refused to accept, and in their stead the directors elected Byron D. Benson, John F. Kelly, Frederick S. Ranzenhofer and George Young, Jr.

Immediately after organization a drive was made for new members, resulting in an enrollment of over eight hundred. The Chamber has three large rooms on the second floor of the Prospect building, at the five corners, fully equipped for business, with a staff of clerks. The first business now being considered is that of a pure and abundant water supply; comfort stations; elimination of tracks of the Erie in Main avenue; city planning and zoning, and the housing problem.





## CHAPTER XLII.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One of the most useful and popular institutions in the city is the Public Library. While there are more beautiful, wealthier and larger ones in the state, there is none that is appreciated higher and patronized more, nor relied upon to a greater extent as a means to education than the public library.

In addition to the attractions of the library from a literary standpoint, it possesses a physical property, in the matter of its location, exceeding all others in the state. From its windows on the second floor of the City Hall—of Moorish architecture originally—erected on Tony's Nose (named after Anthony Howe, British general, who encamped here in 1776), there is presented a panorama of a beautiful country of mountain, rivers, valley, meadow and hills unequalled anywhere in the state, which of themselves fill the beholder with a feeling of peace and quietude in harmony with the "silence" pervading the library.

The Passaic Public Library was first established by popular vote at an election held in 1887, and opened for business February 13, 1888, in a room on the second floor of No. 615 Main avenue, with Miss Charlotte E. Hartt as its first librarian. She was an educated, capable, well read and efficient woman. The library was removed to the second floor of the building next to the National Bank, about 1891. Here it remained until 1892 when it was removed to the City Hall, its present location, and its contents re-catalogued and re-classified according to the Dewey decimal classification system under the direction of Miss Theresa Hitchler, of the New York Free Circulating Library.

In addition to funds received from taxes, the library has received private contributions from individuals, among them the late Moses E. Worthen, who left \$500 for books, and "Anonyms," who sent \$2,000, besides several thousand dollars by subscriptions. In 1895 the necessity being apparent, a branch library was opened in a one-story frame building at No. 18 Second street, the need of which was seen, not only by the trustees, but by Peter Reid, a millionaire, who in the long established and most successful firm of Reid and Barry, made a fortune, and who determined to erect, in the centre of Dundee, a large, up-to-date and beautiful library building, which, in 1902, he did, and presented it to the city, to be called the Jane Watson Reid Memorial Library, in honor of his deceased wife. The building, located on Third street, is of white stone, smooth surface, about sixty feet square, two storied, with roof of opaque, slightly tinted glass. It has shelving capacity for 30,000 volumes, with plenty of wall space for maps, illustrations, &c. Besides a large reading room for the public of every class and sex, there is a men's



room where smoking may be indulged in without objection to the fragrance (?) of the smokers' outfits. There is also a room for mothers, who may here rest and read, sit in idleness or discuss politics and knitting. A large assembly room fills a long-felt want, furnishing a clean, quiet, respectable place for all to gather for an enlightening talk of a serious nature or a fun-filling frolic.

All around the building are houses inhabited by Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Magyars, Slavonians, Poles, Austrians, Russians, Germans and Dutch families, to save whom from walking far off to City Hall library, Peter Reid prepared this beautiful building at a cost of about \$150,000.

In reply to the question as to why he had erected such a magnificent building among the tenements of Dundee, instead of the beautiful private residential section of the Hill neighborhood, Mr. Reid said:

"I did so because the people who have made my money for me worked in my mills and lived here, many years. It is to those, who have not the time to walk up the hill and visit the public library in the City Hall, whom I desire to accommodate. I intend to make it their home."

On the outwall may be seen a copper tablet inscribed:

REID MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Presented to the City of Passaic, by  
Peter Reid, as a memorial to his wife,  
JANE WATSON REID  
Anno Domini MCMIII.

Fully aware of the ethnical conditions in Dundee, the Reid library is fully prepared to meet the need occasioned thereby.

Other branches following that of Dundee, which culminated so profitably to the city and public, began to appear in the following order: Bridge (now Park) branch, at 288 Main avenue; North branch, Summer street public school; Harrison branch, in public school No. 10, Harrison street. High school branch in that school.

Other schools are from time to time supplied with all required books, pamphlets and magazines for special purposes, at frequent intervals, and every effort is made to give all classes the benefits that come from good reading.

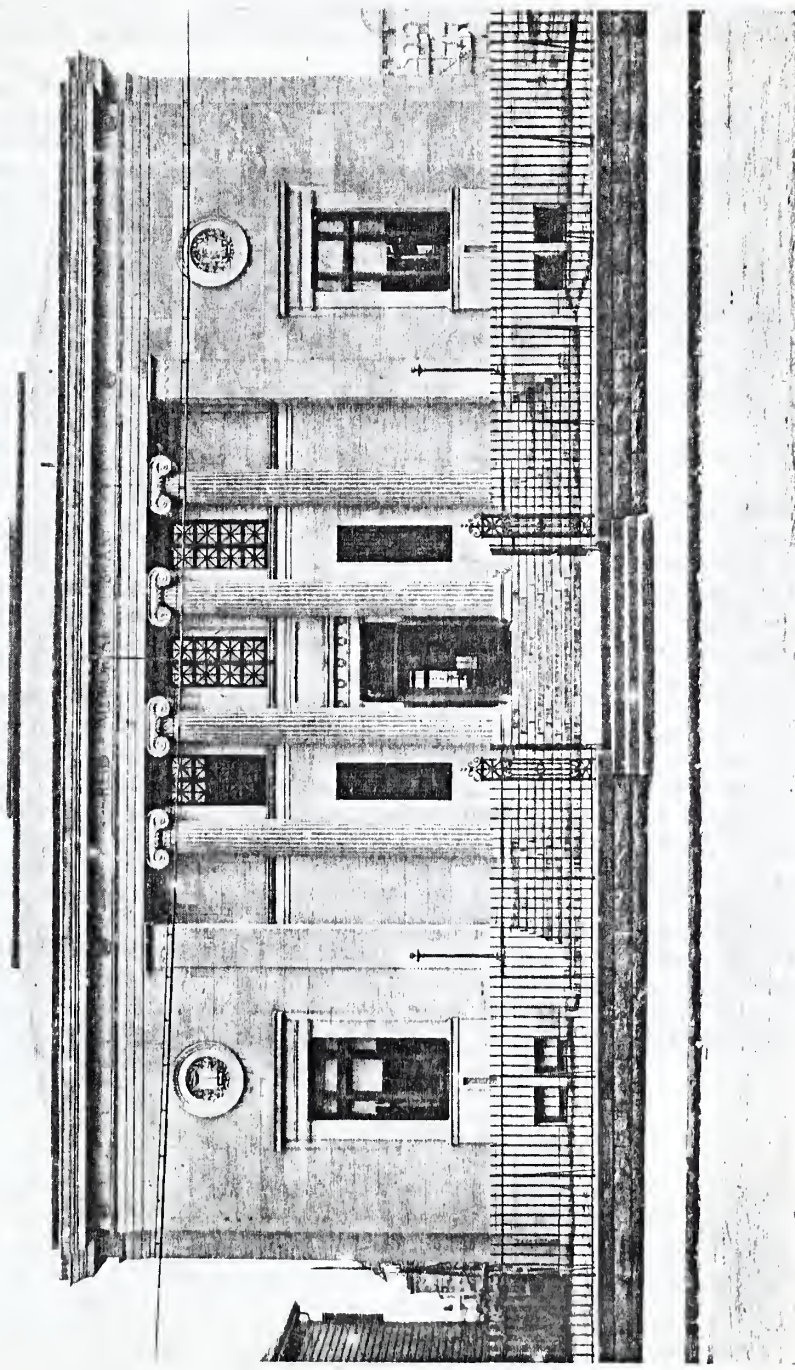
The following lists kindly furnished by the librarian, contain information necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the ramification of the library and its personnel for the periods enumerated thereon bearing in mind that Miss Charlotte E. Hartt (an aunt of the present efficient editor of *Passaic Daily News*, Mr. George M. Hartt), was the first librarian:

1901—Library Trustees: William C. Kimball, president; Irving Angell, secretary; Robert D. Benson, treasurer; John A. Willett; Gilbert W. Blanchard; Charles M. Howe, mayor, ex-officio; Dr. F. E. Spaulding, superintendent of schools, ex-officio.

Librarian: Cecilia C. Lambert. Assistants: M. Belle KilGour, Laurette Smith.







REID MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PASSAIC



Branches, location and person in charge: Dundee Branch, 18 Second street, Grace Banks, Alice Campbell.

1921—Library Trustees: Robert D. Benson, president; R. K. Goodlatte, treasurer; E. A. Greene, secretary; G. W. Blanchard; J. A. Crowley; J. H. McGuire, mayor, ex-officio.

Librarian: Edna B. Pratt. Assistant: Marion C. Butterworth.

Branches, location and persons in charge: Main Library, City Hall—Lily Wilson, Jane Voorman, Dorothy Freeland.

Reid Library, 80 Third street: Grace Banks, Ruth Gale, Margaret Kenny.

North Branch, School No. Seven, Summer street: Lillian Speer, Ruth Toman.

Park Branch, 288 Main avenue: Edith Hannah.

School No. Ten, Harrison street: Margaret Shanno, Beatrice Barnwell.

High School: Altie J. Schooley. Substitutes: Usilla Speer, Edith Jensen.

Total number of volumes in library and in each branch: Main, 14,231; Reid, 12,913; North, 4,233; Park, 6,032; No. Ten, 2,308; High School, 2,887; total, 42,604.

Average monthly circulation in each branch: Main, 6,305; Reid, 15,512; North, 5,182; Park, 3,705; No. Ten, 3,038; High School, 868; total, 24,610.

Books other than in the English language: French, German, Swedish, Spanish, Hungarian, Slovak, Jewish, Dutch, Polish, Italian, Russian, Bohemian.

Newspapers, periodicals, etc.: Passaic Daily Herald, Passaic Daily News, Globe, Newark Evening News, New York Times, New York Tribune, New York Evening World, New York Herald, Christian Science Monitor, American City, American Magazine, American Forestry, Asia, Atlantic Monthly, Bookman, Boy's Life, Business Digest, Business Education, Carry On, Century, Christian Herald, Contemporary Review, Country Gentleman, Country Life in America, Current Events, Current History Magazine, La Prensa, Courier des Etats-Unis, Telegram Codzienny. Slovak Amerike, Romost Ludu, Dziennik Związkowy, Amerikansko Slovenske, Current Opinion, Delineator, Dial, Educational Review, Engineering News Record, English Journal, Everybody's, Forecast, Forum, Good Housekeeping, Harpers, Health Culture, Illustrated London News, Independent, Industrial Arts, International Studio, John Martin's Book, Journal of Education, Judge, Journal of Home Economics, Journal of N. E. A., Journal of Political Economy, Kindergarten and First Grade, Ladies Home Journal, Life, Literary Digest, Manual Training, Mechanical Engineering, Mentor, Modern Priscilla, Motion Picture Magazine, Munsey, Nation, National Geographic, New Republic, North American Review, Open Road, Outing, Photoplay, Pictorial Review, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science Monthly, Punch, Red Cross, Review of Reviews, Saint Nicholas, Saturday Evening Post, School and Society, Scribner, School Review, Scientific American, Scientific American Supplement, Survey, System, Theatre, Vogue, Woman Citizen, Woman's Home Companion, World's Work, Yale Review, Youth's Companion.





## CHAPTER XLIII.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Shortly after the establishment of the mill of Reid and Barry, 1869, and while Passaic was still a village, the need of a bank was felt by thrifty employees, who expressed a wish for a savings bank.

In 1871, when the village of Passaic was a mere hamlet with a population not exceeding 1,200 people, and the center of its business activity at the head of navigation, at the foot of Gregory avenue, steps were initiated for the purpose of establishing financial institutions for the provident and thrifty, and with this purpose in view application was made to the Legislature by Edo Kip, George Place, Dr. John M. Howe, H. G. Herriek, T. B. Stewart, J. A. McKean, W. S. Anderson, James Waterhouse, Herman Schulting, Robert Foulds and Abel Horton for a charter for the creation of a bank under the name of the "Citizens Saving Bank of Passaic."

The charter was granted on April 5, 1871, but made no provision for capital stock. About a year later the Legislature amended the charter for the purpose of affording better security to the depositors so that the bank should have a capital of \$50,000, divided into shares of \$100 each, and the individuals mentioned above were appointed commissioners to receive subscriptions therefor; that upon ten per cent. of the capital stock being paid in, the savings institution could commence business. Nothing came of this effort, for in 1874 application was made to the Legislature by the following gentlemen: Edo Kip, William S. Anderson, William Burgess, John C. Marsellus, George W. Demarest, Peter Reid, Benjamin B. Ayerigg, Dr. John M. Howe, Richard A. Terhune, Ira A. Kip, James Waterhouse, Henry F. Bissel and John F. Barkley, for a charter for a savings bank under the name of the "Industrial Savings Bank of Passaic." This charter was granted to the incorporators on March 12, 1874, but banking business in those days was probably not as remunerative as at the present day, hence no steps were taken for the establishing of a savings bank under this charter. Notwithstanding that up to this time two charters had been granted for the incorporation of banks for the frugal and saving, no attempt for the creation of a commercial bank had been made. So John C. Marsellus, Benjamin B. Ayerigg, Edo Kip, John M. Howe, Richard A. Terhune, William S. Anderson, John F. Barkley, William Burgess, Elbert K. Halstead, James Waterhouse and George W. Demarest applied to the Legislature for a charter for "The City Bank" of Passaic, which bank should have a capital stock of \$100,000, with liberty to increase it to \$250,000, and the parties above mentioned were appointed commissioners by the act to open books for subscriptions for its capital stock which bank had author-





ity to issue notes and bills obligatory or of credit. This charter was granted about one year after the incorporation of the City of Passaic, but evidently cash was scarce, because no bank was ever started under this charter.

We thus perceive that while efforts were made by the then prominent men of Passaic to establish financial institutions, either through lack of financial means in the city, or the organizers, coming to the conclusion that the time for a banking institution in the City of Passaic was not yet ripe, nothing came of these projects. But the real check to establishing a bank was the sudden appearance of "Black Friday," October 17, 1873, and the greatest panic this country ever experienced began to be felt, and there was no need of a bank, because there was no money to deposit. All but one mill had closed their doors, and hundreds of men roamed the country for about eight years, looking for a job at any wage and at anything. Mechanics who had been getting five dollars worked for fifty cents a day.

Steps were taken in 1877 for the organization of the First National Bank of Passaic, by a Mr. George S. Holbert, of St. Clair, Michigan, who came here for that purpose. The original papers, of which the following are copies, are in the possession of the writer:

Washington, June 21st, 1877.

Gentlemen: This office is in receipt of a letter from the Hon. Augustus W. Cutler, satisfactorily endorsing yourselves and associates for the purpose of organizing a National Bank.

Your application is in due form and is approved. You are therefore authorized to organize a National Bank at Passaic, N. J., with a capital of \$100,000.

I send by today's mail to you a copy of the Natl. Bank Act with the blank forms for organizing your Bank—among which is an order for circulation, which you are requested to fill up, indicating the denomination of plate or plates desired and return the same with your organization papers when completed to this office. The expense of engraving the plates as provided by Act of Congress, approved June 20, 1874, must be paid by your Association—the rates are as follows—one plate 5.5.5.5 \$200—one plate 10.10.10.20. \$200. You can order one or more plates as you prefer—the amount to be remitted on receipt of bill from this office—the cost of the paper and printing your currency will be paid by this Office. It will take about forty days after your organization is completed and your bonds deposited to engrave your plates and get your currency ready for delivery.

Very respectfully,

JNO. JAY HAVENS, Comptroller of Currency.

Messrs. Thos. M. Moore, Adrian Hopper and others, Passaic, N. J..

Washington, June 21st, 1877.

Sir:—Your letter of the 20th inst. with application of Thos. M. Moore, Adrian Hopper and others for authority to establish a Natl. Bank at Passaic, N. J., is received. Your endorsement is satisfactory, and I have so notified the parties, and granted them the desired authority.

Very respectfully,

JNO. JAY HAVENS, Comptroller of Currency.

Hon. A. W. Cutler, Morristown, New Jersey.







PASSAIC NATIONAL BANK, 1921



WILLETT BUILDING RUINS, OLD POST OFFICE AND NATIONAL BANK, MAY 1, 1922





Passaic, Passaic County, N. J., August 6th, 1877.

We the undersigned subscribers promise to take the number of shares of one hundred dollars each of the capital stock of the First National Bank of Passaic and pay for the same as the Board of Directors may direct. Said capital to be one hundred thousand dollars. (Signed by) G. S. Holbert, St. Clair, Michigan, 80 shares; J. A. Whitaker, Deckertown, N. J., 10 shares; W. M. Murray, Goshen, N. Y., 10 shares; T. M. Moore, Passaic, N. J., 10 shares; Edo Kip, Passaic, N. J., 10 shares. (Mr. Holbert agrees to take only 60 shares).

But because the stock was controlled by outsiders and not made a local affair, the new bank received no support from business men, and, after waiting ten days, Mr. Holbert concluded to, and did, abandon it, and left town never to return. Lawyer Moore's office was to be the first banking room. And Passaic went along without a bank of any kind.

By 1883 there were signs of an improvement in business, so much so, that the score or more of business men here, who were doing business (mostly), with the First National Bank of Paterson, and a few with New York banks, felt the need of a home bank. This led to a meeting for discussing the subject, held in the office of Moore & Scott, lawyers, Thursday evening, October 11, 1883, attended by Dr. Charles M. Howe, Thomas M. Moore, William W. Scott, Mayor Bird W. Spencer, John A. Willett, Henry Frain, John J. Slater, Benjamin F. Popple, Dr. Church, George B. Waterhouse, Washington Paulison, Lawyer Stoutenburgh, Edmund Le B. Gardner, William I. Barry and Herman Schulting, the elder. Mayor Spencer presided, and among other things said that parties in New York, one of them ex-President and General U. S. Grant, had subscribed for \$50,000 of the stock, contingent upon the same amount being subscribed by residents of Passaic. This did not appeal to Mr. Willett, who said that every share of stock should be subscribed for by Passaic people, and held forth as a warning, Holbert's attempt. There was much enthusiasm for the project, and a committee was appointed to receive subscriptions. But this is as far as it got. Fights for control of the stock and offices resulted in hard feelings, leading to abandonment.

PASSAIC NATIONAL BANK. Passaic, therefore, remained without banking facilities for years, and those who had occasion to use a savings or commercial bank kept their accounts in New York City or otherwise in the City of Paterson. Things so continued until Robert D. Kent, in the summer of 1886, dropped into town and made an effort to organize a National Bank. He called upon a great number of our prominent citizens, most of whom looked upon the scheme as impracticable, and many prophesied that no bank could pay because there was not sufficient business or money in the community. However, a meeting of those who subscribed for stock was called for organization in the old City Hall, located where the Municipal Building now stands. It was late in the night of about September 1, 1886, when the organization, through the efforts of Mr. Kent, was perfected. No local man, at that time, had



any great faith in the movement and of those that did subscribe none took more than fifty shares. The Passaic National Bank was opened for business October 20, 1886, at 706 Main avenue, in a store. The board of directors consisted of Edo Kip, Moses E. Worthen, A. N. Ackerman, Thomas M. Moore, John A. Willett, F. W. Soule, Frank M. Swan, Charles M. Howe and Robert D. Kent. From this small beginning the Passaic National Bank has grown so that its capital is now \$500,000. It has earned a surplus of \$500,000 and undivided profits of over \$30,000. It paid a semi-annual dividend of three per cent. within eighteen months after its organization, and it has gradually, year by year, increased its dividends. It has total assets of \$5,532,744.23.

Its directors are: Richard J. Scoles, G. W. Blanchard, James B. Ackerson, W. F. Gaston, A. F. Townsend, Ferdinand Wilkes, Samuel Hird, Julius Forstinann, Benjamin I. Ward and William Abbott.

THE PASSAIC TRUST AND SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY. The Passaic National Bank had only been in business about two years when Mr. Kent and one or two of the directors conceived that it would be an excellent idea to start a savings bank, although a number of the directors of the Passaic National Bank doubted its wisdom because there was a flourishing building and loan association in the city which was paying much higher dividends than a savings institution could possibly afford. Some of the more determined, however, finally prevailed upon their less enthusiastic brethren, with the result that on November 1, 1887, the Passaic Trust and Safe Deposit Company was incorporated, with a capital of \$100,000, of which only \$25,000 was paid in. The directors elected upon the organization were the following gentlemen. Peter Reid, William F. Gaston, Robert D. Kent, Frank M. Swan, Edo Kip, F. A. Soule, Dr. Charles M. Howe, F. W. Soule, David Carlisle, Moses E. Worthen, A. Z. Van Houten, David Knowles, John A. Willett, John J. Bowes, Thomas M. Moore, George B. Waterhouse, Henry A. Barry and A. N. Ackerman.

The banking room was in the same place in which the Passaic National Bank was conducting its business and from a small institution with little capital, no deposits and little faith by its best friends in its success, it has prospered with giant strides, so that today it has a capital of \$500,000.00; surplus and profits, \$711,339.92; Deposits, \$10,664,150.25; Interest Reserve, \$10,000.00; contingent reserve, \$33,625.76; total, \$11,918,964.94. Directors are: Richard J. Scoles, G. W. Blanchard, Arthur S. Corbin, James B. Ackerson, Irving D. Kip, Edward A. Greene, William F. Gaston, Francis W. Soule, Paul W. Muller and Isaac W. England, for the Passaic Trust and Safe Deposit Company.

PASSAIC NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY. The consolidation of the Passaic Trust and Safe Deposit Company and of the Passaic National Bank was first taken up by the directors early in 1919 when the late Dr. Charles M. Howe, president of the Passaic National, invited the





directors of the trust company to meet with the directors of the National to consider such a move. A merger was decided on in principle, the details to be worked out when it should be deemed expedient and advantageous to do so. Recently the matter was taken up by the directors and a committee, consisting of Richard J. Scoles, president of both banks, and James B. Ackerson, Irving D. Kip and Paul W. Muller, of the Passaic Trust, and Gilbert W. Blanchard, William F. Gaston and William Abbott, of the National Bank directors, was named to consider the matter and make recommendations.

This committee reported in favor of a consolidation under the National Bank Act upon a basis of respective values of the assets and good will of the companies as of the close of business December 31, 1921, to be determined by Price, Waterhouse & Company, of New York. This company reported the valuation of the trust company at 57.3 per cent., and the National Bank 42.7 per cent. of the aggregate value of both. Capital stock of each bank being \$500,000, it was decided, in view of this valuation report, that the trust company declare a thirty per cent. stock dividend, making its capital \$650,000.

The articles of agreement for the consolidation were reached on March 2, 1922, and approved by the stockholders of the Trust Company March 13, and of the bank, April 5, 1922, whereby the two became consolidated as a national bank to be known as the Passaic National Bank and Trust Company, with a total capital of \$1,150,000, which makes the institution one of the largest in New Jersey.

Preliminary to the consummation of the agreement, and subject to confirmation by the stockholders, the directors of the Passaic Trust voted a thirty per cent. stock dividend which would increase the capital stock of the bank from \$500,000 to \$650,000.

The new bank will have a total of capital, surplus and undivided profits of a little over \$2,000,000, and its total resources will be approximately \$17,000,000.

The new bank will perform all the functions and carry on all branches of business now transacted by both institutions.

It is planned to erect a new structure on the property owned by the Passaic National Bank at Main avenue, Bloomfield avenue and Prospect street. The entire ground floor will be occupied by the bank and will have a thirty-foot ceiling. Above will be four stories containing offices which will be rented. The new building will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000. While the present bank building is being razed and the new one erected the Passaic National Bank will conduct its business on the ground floor of the Lawyers' Building.

**PEOPLES BANK AND TRUST COMPANY.** Within two years after the incorporation of the Passaic Trust and Safe Deposit Company, Mayor Spencer conceived the idea that it would be to the advantage of the merchants, manufacturers and other commercial interests to have another





bank, arguing that the growth of a town was very materially enhanced by an abundance of financial means. A great many persons, when approached to take stock in the new venture dubiously shook their heads and declined, on the ground that there were then more banks than for which there was sufficient business. His Honor, with that characteristic persistency for which he is noted, and being convinced of the soundness of his judgment, finally succeeded in securing subscriptions for the whole capital stock of \$100,000, and on the first day of January, 1890, The State Trust and Safe Deposit Company opened its doors for business, at 201 Main avenue, in one of the stores of Dr. Van Riper, with the following Board of Directors: Bird W. Spencer, Oscar Dressler, John A. Hegeman, H. P. Doremus, W. R. Brown, Alfred Speer, Cornelius Van Riper, Richard Morrell, Henry Meyers, William Malcolm, William S. Stryker, Gilbert D. Bogart, Richard Outwater, C. J. Cadmus, Andrew McLean, George P. Rust and Thomas W. Alyea. On March 9, 1891, the name was changed. From that day to the present time General Spencer has, with his manifold duties, given close care and attention to the Peoples Bank and Trust Company, with the result that its capital has been increased to \$200,000. It has a surplus fund and undivided profits of over \$200,000 and total assets of nearly \$3,000,000, and all of this in the face of the predictions, made by numerous critics, that they would give the bank six months in which to close its doors. On March 10, 1922, it showed: Capital stock, \$400,000.00; surplus fund, \$400,000.00; undivided profits, \$255,973.67; total assets, \$7,507,846.67.

**HOBART TRUST COMPANY.** In the fall of 1899 Harry Meyers and a number of his friends concluded that there was plenty of room for another banking institution, and when Mr. Meyers started out with a subscription list to raise a capital of \$100,000 for the Hobart Trust Company the same was so heavily over-subscribed that to satisfy all his friends who desired to participate, he made the capital \$100,000, created a surplus fund of \$50,000, and the company started business on January 15, 1900, in the Daily News building, with the following board of directors: William McKenzie, William Barbour, William P. Greenlie, Eugene Stevenson, William P. Aldrich, George P. Rust, William B. Gourley, Henry L. Basch, Jacob J. Van Noordt, Frank Hughes, Nathan Fleischer, Crines Bird, Joseph H. Wright, James Bryce, Harry Meyers, Dr. Gerard L. Van Schott, Hobart Tuttle, E. Le B. Gardner, Selig Scheuer, M. Lujanovits and Henry Meyers. The Hobart Trust Company, as the fourth institution in the city, has shown remarkable progress, and today, in addition to its \$50,000 surplus, it has undivided profits of \$206,159 and total resources, \$3,560,772.

Officers—Harry Meyers, president; F. N. Bidwell, vice-president; Frank Hughes, vice-president; T. C. Lucas, vice-president; R. S. Ackerman, secretary and treasurer. Directors—William P. Aldrich, F. N. Bidwell, Crines Bird, Edward J. Coughlin, Judge Thomas P. Costello,



Frank Hughes, T. C. Lucas, Harry Meyers, Albert O. Miller, Jr., Laurence W. Stern.

Although by far the greater number of savings account depositors in the banks (which had such departments) was from the laboring class of the Dundee section of the city, no attempt was made to establish a bank there until April, 1901, when William W. Scott, Esq., went among the people of that section and secured subscriptions of \$50,000, the amount of capital of the Dundee Savings Bank, which he purposed locating there. After securing this he made application for a charter, which being opposed by at least one of the more recently established banks, was refused because, as Mr. Scott was notified, "no further banking facilities are required in your city, at present." Here the project ended and remained dormant for six years, or until Mr. Kent, being made acquainted with conditions there, thought out the Merchants Bank of Passaic.

**MERCHANTS BANK OF PASSAIC.** He concluded that there was a good field for a small bank among the merchants of the Dundee section of this city, and thereupon started out to procure subscriptions for the organization of the Merchants Bank. He had no difficulty in raising a capital of \$50,000, and the Merchants Bank opened for business on March 30, 1907, at 183 Passaic street, with the following officers and board of directors: Robert D. Kent, president; John Hardifer, vice-president; Charles M. Applegate, cashier. Directors—F. F. Anderson, Arthur S. Corbin, Louis R. Cowdrey, John De Vries, John Hardifer, Frank Kaplan, Robert D. Kent, Ernest A. Moore, John Rzsak, Cornelius Van Herwarde, R. J. O'Brien. The result has justified the prediction of Lawyer Scott and Mr. Kent's sagacity. It met the need, became popular and has proved a great success.

On March 10, 1922, its statement showed: Capital, \$100,000.00; surplus, \$50,000.00; undivided profits, \$30,607.41; deposits, \$1,570,540.28; total, \$1,751,147.69. Directors: Edward F. Hackett, John Hardifer, Frank Kaplan, Robert D. Kent, William R. Kent, John F. Myers, Garret Roosma, Henry H. Rust, F. C. Streckfuss, C. Van Herwarde.

**CITY TRUST COMPANY OF PASSAIC.** For more than eight years Passaic was able to get along with her five banks and several Building and Loan Associations, when her constant growth caused some of her men to believe a new bank was needed, to supply which Arthur W. Clapp, Henry Frain, August Kimmig, Joseph A. Crowley, Ernest Schacht, John P. White, Emil Grim, Joseph A. Delaney (now Common Pleas Judge, Editor), John J. Lannon, Lorenzo F. Orbe, Henry Hobelmann, James Ryan and William G. Heuser, organized the Fourth Ward Trust Company and received a charter from the state, September 27, 1916. Its capital was \$100,000. Business was commenced October 2, 1916, in a store at No. 46 Lexington avenue, with (then) Mayor George





N. Seger, president; D. S. Seudder (of the staff of the United States Comptroller), treasurer.

The company, although prospering, was not located near enough to Main avenue, the financial centre, to secure transient business to facilitate which a plot at the junction of Main avenue and Prospect street was purchased (in the Second ward), and a handsome banking house, with offices, was erected, into which, on December 10, 1921, the company moved. This removal from the Fourth ward led to changing the name to that of City Trust Company of Passaic. There has practically been no change in its original board of directors—all men of this locality—excepting where the death of Timothy Hagerty led to the election of his son, John P. Hagerty.

Officers: George N. Seger, president; S. D. Seudder, vice-president and treasurer; John H. McGuire, vice-president and counsel; Joseph A. Delaney, vice-president; Henry Frain, vice-president; James J. Ryan, secretary; James A. Crowley, assistant treasurer; C. I. Collier, assistant secretary. Board of Directors: James A. Crowley, Judge Joseph A. Delaney, Henry Frain, Daniel Gillan, Timothy Hagerty, Gustave Hilgert, Henry Hobelmann, August Kimmig, Mayor John H. McGuire, Lorenzo F. Orbe, Alfred Pfister, Abram Prejskel, Herbert Rumsey, James J. Ryan, Ernest Schacht, W. E. Scott, S. D. Seudder, George N. Seger, G. J. Van Schott, M. D., John P. Hagerty.

This latest born of Passaic's banks was welcomed by the others, and immediately became a favorite among the residents of the Fourth ward, who, with others, were so active in their support that it soon became advisable to double its capital stock; and today, after five years, it shows: Capital stock, \$200,000.00; surplus, \$167,500.00; total resources, \$2,323,744.14.

**MORTGAGE AND TITLE COMPANIES.** In 1898 Harry Meyers and his associates conceived the idea that it would be a good business venture to copy the county records for the purpose of insuring titles to real estate. The company started with a capital of \$75,000, and with the following board of directors: Harry Meyers, Charles M. King, William B. Gourley, Charles A. Bergen and A. O. Miller, Jr. It had its offices for awhile in The Daily News Building and later moved to Paterson, then to Passaic where its principal office has since continued.

In the meantime Passaic was sweeping along with tremendous strides. Building operations were enormous and the demand for money could not be supplied. Some of the leading financial men conceived that it would be a good business proposition, not only from an investment point of view, but by giving support to conservative building operations to speed the growth of the city, and concluded to organize a corporation whose objects would be twofold:

- (1) To insure titles to real estate.
- (2) To lend money on first bond



and mortgage on real estate, which mortgage could be sold to investors, with or without the company's guarantee.

Thereupon a subscription list was started for a corporation on these lines. A number of representative financial men, however, refused to participate, claiming that there was not a sufficiently large field for such a company to make it remunerative to the stockholders. A capital of \$100,000 was, however, subscribed, and thereupon the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Company was launched on the first day of June, 1905, with the following Board of Directors: Andrew McLean, George P. Rust, R. J. Scoles, G. D. Bogart, Edward E. Poor, A. P. Crosby, Alwyn Ball, Jr., R. D. Benson, B. W. Spencer, Tunis Bird, T. A. R. Goodlatte, P. M. Berry, Arthur S. Hughes, P. J. Kip and John Zahn. This was the first company of this nature organized in the State of New Jersey. The success of the venture was so great that the company was re-organized within a year, with an increased capital of \$250,000. It changed its name to the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Company and commenced business on the first day of July, 1906. It paid out of the earnings to the stockholders of the former company a dividend of eleven per cent.

Hardly, however, had the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Company commenced business before a movement was started to form an opposition company, and on the fifteenth day of June, 1906, was floated the Citizens Title Insurance and Mortgage Company, with a capital of \$150,000, with the following board of directors: Christian Bahnsen, Gilbert W. Blanchard, John J. Bowes, Marinus J. Coman, George S. Davenport, Nicholas Frederick, William F. Gaston, Charles M. Howe, Peter Reid, Frederick A. Soule, Adrian D. Sullivan, Eliot M. Henderson, James A. Sullivan, A. Zabriskie Van Houten, William W. Watson, Robert R. Watson and Samuel Weinberger.

Both of these companies succeeded so well that Harry Meyers concluded there was still plenty of room for another title and mortgage company, and thereupon secured subscriptions for the First Mortgage Title and Insurance Company, with a capital of \$250,000 and surplus of \$50,000, and started business on the first day of September, 1909, with the following board of directors: William P. Aldrich, Aaron J. Bach, Isaac A. Bach, Charles A. Bergen, Frederick N. Bidwell, Crines Bird, James Bryce, Edward J. Coughlin, Cornelius Doremus, Dow H. Druker, Moses H. Crossman, Franklin S. Jerome, William C. Kimball, Timothy C. Lucas, William McKenzie, Andrew F. McBride, Henry Meyers, Harry Meyers, Leopold Meyers, Henry H. Parmelee, Ralph Shaw, Samuel J. Watson, Charles B. Waterhouse, Morris L. Woolf and Joseph H. Wright.

Since this time several other companies started business on these lines in different parts of the state, and while there were only six or





seven companies in the state of this class, three of them were in the City of Passaic.

The success and prosperity of the three title companies led the directors of Fourth Ward Trust Company to organize a title company on November 22, 1919, with capital of \$121,000, and office at 16 Lexington avenue. Like the trust company, its directors are the same today as when organized.

#### COMING OF THE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

Prior to the establishment of banking institutions, efforts had been set on foot for the organization of a building and loan association for the purpose of aiding and assisting the workingmen who desired to secure modest homes, but found it exceedingly hard to raise money on mortgages and especially difficult to make any reductions by the payment of small sums on account of the principal. About this time William Malcolm located in this city, and, knowing how successfully building and loan associations had been conducted in England, summoned a few of his friends to discuss the advisability of forming a building and loan association. The result was that about the first day of May, 1882, the Mutual Loan and Building Association of the City of Passaic opened its books for subscriptions and elected the following board of directors: David Slingerland, George M. Hughes, Frank Hartley, W. O. Talbot, N. C. Ricardo, John Gruber, L. L. Grear, Andrew Wilson.

The first sale made by the association was \$1,100 to Daniel Fitzgerald, on his property in First street in this city, at a premium of six and one-fourth per cent. A number of persons were amazed at anyone paying such a premium, but the criticism abated when it was realized that if everyone paid approximately the same premium, by the mutual advantages which such an institution conferred, it would cost the borrower practically nothing, besides giving him the additional advantage of making payment on his mortgage in sums as small as one dollar at any one time. It was not very long before a great many workingmen became members of the "Old Mutual," and a number of the substantial people took stock therein as an investment. Meetings were held at which there was sharp bidding and thousands of dollars were loaned every month, and so popular did this method of securing money on mortgages become that the discerning Gilbert D. Bogart recognized the advantages it furnished to the homeseeker and tried to induce every purchaser of his Garfield development to borrow money out of it. These loans assured the success of Mr. Bogart's venture, which might otherwise have been questionable, as money was scarce and so many claimed that nothing good could come out of the Colonel or his speculation. To these critics we can only say, "Behold Garfield today!" The Mutual Loan and Building Association became so successful and popular that at its annual meetings it was necessary to engage the old Lyceum Theater, in





Washington place, as such great numbers attended. It was a fundamental rule of the Mutual Loan and Building Association not to issue more than ten shares to any member, or in the aggregate more than 1,000 shares in each year, consequently whenever a new series was issued, it was rapidly over-subscribed, consequently large numbers of intending subscribers failed to secure shares.

This produced friction and these persons concluded there was ample room for another association, and thereupon formed, on or about the first day of September, 1887, the Peoples Building and Loan Association of Passaic, with the following board of directors: Henry Berger, Frank Hughes, Cornelius W. Kievit, Michael King, John Beddows, John Hardifer, John King, Andrew Wilson and Cornelius Warner. The creation of the Peoples Building and Loan Association, however, did not satisfy the demands for shares and for mortgage loans, so that within a short time thereafter and about the middle of May, 1888, the Union Loan and Building Association of Passaic was founded, with the following directors: Nelson Stoddard, George M. Hughes, A. Norman, L. L. Grear, G. L. Simpson, C. G. Hedge, John Jelleme, Albert Totten, W. R. Brown, James Watson, Joseph T. Speer, John Hemion.

But, again, the organizing of this association did not satisfy the great demand from investors and borrowers, whereupon there was brought into existence, on or about the middle of June, 1895, the Home Building and Loan Association, with the following board of directors: John J. Bowes, D. W. Mahony, Harry Meyers, Dr. D. W. Sullivan, C. P. Strayer, W. J. Purcell, H. M. Ross, Theodore Cayan, Ernest Remig, John H. Kehoe, Benjamin F. Noonan and John J. Welsh.

Since then other building and loans have been instituted, but with the Home Building and Loan Association, the craze for them began to cease. Furthermore, the public confidence in these associations was shortly thereafter rudely shattered through the exposure of large thefts. These things, fortunately, are now almost impossible, as the Banking Department of this State exercises a strict supervision, which was not the case prior to 1900. By these exposures and the coming into existence of the mortgage companies, the opportunities of these institutions have become very much circumscribed and to such an extent that all the building and loan associations in this city today hardly represent the assets which the Mutual had in its most prosperous days.

In addition to the above there are, Acquackanonk, Constructive, Equitable, Hobart, Fourth Ward, The Main, Passaic, Polish-American, Workingmen's and others. All are needed, being found of great benefit to the workingman in securing a home and to speculative builders.

#### EVIDENCE OF PASSAIC PROSPERITY.

Savings accounts are an accurate gauge of a community's stability. Applied to Passaic, the test indicates a prosperous condition, this, too,



at a time when the nation is passing out of a period of financial and business depression. Statistics show that Passaic savings accounts, in five banks, were increased by \$1,392,424.53 during the year which ended December 31. Every bank shared in this growth. At the end of the year 1920, there was a total of \$15,860,207.60 on deposit in savings accounts here. A year later, at the end of 1921, there was a total of \$17,252,662.13.

Passaic's industries are sound and Passaic's banks and building and loan associations are prosperous. Passaic's business men have not experienced, within the past year, the "boom" buying that followed the armistice, when everything was inflated, but they have been much better off than business men in other cities, harder hit by the national business depression.

It will thus be seen that the City of Passaic has from every aspect in financial matters been not only most original, but that hardly an opportunity would present itself before the financiers of this community would supply the want. Not only has Passaic always possessed great civic pride, so significant in our Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, but in financial affairs it has on every occasion given great assistance to the individual who has had a legitimate business enterprise and needed funds with which to accomplish his object. It thereby assisted not only the applicant, but also aided the expansion of our city, and this substantial assistance by our moneyed men has been often commented upon by numerous prominent people from other cities.







GENERAL HOSPITAL, PASSAIC





## CHAPTER XLIV. BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

### HOSPITALS OF PASSAIC.

The hospitals of Passaic trace their descent from a free dispensary opened and maintained by the members of the Passaic City Medical Society in 1891 at 277 Passaic street, in the building later occupied by the Passaic Street Mission. Some years previous to that there had been efforts to found a hospital. The first was in 1884, when it was proposed to start one in connection with the Home and Orphan Asylum, and the second a year or so later, when an enthusiastic meeting to discuss the subject was held at the home of Dr. Cornelius Van Riper. The meeting adjourned at the call of the chair, and it was impossible ever to get a sufficient number together again.

The Medical Society, when it opened the dispensary, provided one or two cots for accident cases, where patients could be brought while arrangements were made to send them to one of the Paterson hospitals. These facilities were soon overtaxed. The upper floor was rented, and the place became the Emergency Hospital. Good women interested themselves, and eventually formed the Ladies' Auxiliary, (incorporated July 17, 1893), relieving the physicians of many cares.

On June 13, 1892, the doctors became incorporated as the Passaic Hospital Association, with the following charter members: Drs. R. A. Terhune, J. A. Hegeman, Cornelius Van Riper, F. H. Rice, W. H. Carroll, G. J. Van Schott, John J. Sullivan, P. H. Terhune, G. L. Rundle, F. F. C. Demarest, J. F. Hadley and George T. Welch. A meeting of the incorporators was held on December 21 at the Passaic street quarters. Soon afterwards the Emergency Hospital was moved to Park place by the Ladies' Auxiliary, which had taken charge of it.

It was in June, 1892, also, that part of the present property was given as a hospital site by the late Mrs. Susan J. Palmer, and it was this gift that led to the incorporation. Mrs. Joseph Hegeman, who had treasured a hospital project in her mind ever since 1880, had at first intended to present the land, and a committee of physicians went over the Ayerigg property to select the site. They chose the commanding bluff on which the hospital stands. On examining the maps it was found that while Mrs. Hegeman owned the land at the foot of the hill, the hill itself belonged to her sister, Mrs. Susan J. Palmer. This made no difference. Mrs. Palmer generously gave land worth \$4,000. It fronted on Lafayette avenue and ran to the centre of the block. It was proposed to change the name of the prospective institution to the Ayerigg Hospital, out of compliment to the family of Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Hegeman, but Mrs. Palmer vetoed this.



There was for a time some difference of opinion among the hospital workers as to the proper policy to pursue. The women were anxious to see their Emergency Hospital grow, and advised against a more ambitious project. The doctors were reluctant to let Mrs. Palmer's gift lie idle. Much time was spent in debate, and when Mrs. Palmer deeded the property the conveyance contained the significant provision that there should never be any women on the hospital Board of Directors. Plans were at first drawn for a building costing \$25,000 and subscriptions were taken. Then, partly by gift and partly by purchase, twenty-three additional lots were obtained in 1896 from the heirs of Mrs. Palmer at a cost of \$3,000. This extended the property to the Boulevard. It has since been enlarged by the gift from Mrs. Hegeman of the land at the foot of the hill, reaching as far as Maple street. Some day this will become a beautiful little park.

It was originally intended to have the building front on Lafayette avenue, but a larger structure was decided on to face Howe avenue. On September 14, 1896, the plans of Fred W. Wentworth were adopted for a brick building, Gothic in style and pleasing in design. On December 7 a contract was signed with John W. Ferguson to complete the work for \$40,600. Ground was broken five days later. On March 11, 1897, the cornerstone was laid, and on October 28 the building was opened. The Emergency Hospital, which at this time was in the old Hegeman mansion, 306 River drive, was then discontinued. The General Hospital, as it has come to be called, during the year 1921, had cared for 2,642 patients. Its departments are medical, surgical, gynecological and eye and ear. It has a complete, modern equipment in every respect. It has a splendid, well-lighted, operating room and two adult wards of ten beds each, children's ward of ten beds, two wards of two beds each and nine private rooms, making a total of forty-three beds. The nursing is the work of graduate nurses, assisted by the members of a training school.

The Training school for nurses was organized October 13, 1897. The Leavens Memorial Home for Nurses has been occupied since 1910. A new wing was added to the hospital in 1916, containing two operating rooms furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Wilkes. The Pathological laboratory was equipped and furnished by Mr. and Mrs. James B. Ackerson in memory of their son, John A. Ackerson; and the Department of Roentgenology was equipped by Mrs. Christiana Terhune Randol in memory of her father, Dr. Garrit Terhune, and her brother, Dr. Richard Terhune. A campaign to raise money for the new building in 1914 realized \$90,000. An endowment fund left by Mr. Peter Reid in 1912 amounted to \$200,000. Other endowments amounted to \$21,900. The number of patients cared for to January 1, 1921, was 25,250; number of patients treated in out-patient department, 37,410;





number of nurses graduated from training school, one hundred and eighteen.

The officers of the Board of Governors are: Richard J. Scoles, president; Christian Bahnsen, vice-president; John Woolley, secretary; Richard Morrell, treasurer; Paul W. Muller, assistant-treasurer.

Medical Staff—George S. Davenport, M. D., president; Arthur H. Temple, M. D., vice-president; Frederick S. Caverly, M. D., secretary.

Visiting Surgeons—H. C. Reynolds, M. D.; J. H. Carlisle, M. D.; E. W. Smith, M. D.; C. Vander Clock, M. D. Visiting Physicians—G. S. Davenport, M. D.; A. H. Temple, M. D.; F. S. Caverly, M. D. Obstetrician, A. Machlin, M. D.; Orthopedician, G. J. Van Schott, Jr., M. D.; Ophthalmologist, W. E. Chase, M. D.; Roentgenologist, P. H. Terhune, M. D.; Pediatrician, A. Ward Van Riper, M. D.; Laryngologist and Otologist, W. L. Liefeld, M. D.; Consultant, G. J. Van Schott, Jr., M. D.; House Physician, S. Ginsburg, M. D.; House Physician, G. W. Dren, M. D.; Pathologist, W. MacMillan, M. D.; Miss Margaret A. Wallace, R. N., superintendent of Hospital; Miss Sarah E. Longoor, R. N., Superintendent of Training School; Miss Marie Kalita, R. N., Assistant Superintendent of Training School. Miss O. Sawyer, R. N., Night Superintendent; Miss Florence Livingston, R. N., X-Ray Technician; Miss Mildred Van Riper, R. N., Graduate Charge Operating Room; Miss Frances Goldsmith, R. N., Graduate Charge Housekeeping; Miss Ida F. Austin, R. N., Visiting Instructor of Training School; Miss J. Hendey, Statistician.

The General Hospital ranks high among the state's hospitals, and has on its staff the leading men of the medical and surgical profession of the city. Nothing is lacking in equipment, which is of the modern type and of the best material.

Passaic has an Isolation Hospital, established in 1906, at a cost of \$31,000.

St. Mary's Hospital Association was chartered August 19, 1895, the incorporators being Bishop W. M. Wigger, of the diocese of Newark; the Very Rev. J. J. O'Connor, Chancellor of the diocese; the Rev. John A. Sheppard, rector of St. Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church; the Rev. C. Mondorf, of Carlstadt; the Rev. J. E. Lambert, the Rev. J. J. Cunnely and Drs. George T. Welch, Frederick F. C. Demarest, John J. Sullivan and William H. Carroll. The four doctors named had withdrawn from the Passaic Hospital Association some time previously because of differences of opinion with the majority about the proper management of the Emergency Hospital.

The club house on Ann street, in the rear of the Catholic church, was converted into a neat and satisfactory hospital with a dozen beds. It was opened on August 15, 1895. A building on Pennington avenue, near Ayerigg avenue, was purchased by Father Sheppard in that year. The neighboring property-owners did not greet the prospect of a hospital



with enthusiasm, and an effort was made to repurchase the property, but it failed. Plans for a building with a frontage of sixty feet, a depth of one hundred feet and four stories high, with a basement and a rear sub-cellar, were prepared by Schickle & Ditmars. The contract was awarded to Smith Brothers for \$38,000. The cornerstone laying was the occasion of a great celebration, the orators being Governor John W. Griggs and Bishop McQuaid of Rochester. The building was delayed considerably by the contractors stopping work and the filing of many liens. It was finished by the bondsman, and the portion of the contract price unexpended was paid into chancery to be divided among the creditors. The building was ready on November 8, 1898, when business began.

The hospital, furnishings and equipment are valued at \$100,000. The building is of brick, stone and iron, very substantial, resting on the solid rock; sound-proof where necessary, and of the most approved hospital construction. The hospital is non-sectarian, and its doors are open to the sick of every race and creed; but, being under Catholic auspices, the institution is managed by the Sisters of the Order of St. Elizabeth, whose headquarters are at Madison, New Jersey. Sister Mechtilde was supervising nurse from August 15, 1895, until November 24, 1899, when she was transferred to Newark and succeeded by Sister Rose Vincent.

For four years there was only one change in the medical staff. In December, 1896, Dr. John J. Sullivan resigned to spend two years in professional study in Europe. He was succeeded by Dr. Percy H. Terhune. In October, 1899, the Mother Superior of the Order announced to the staff her conviction that a change was desirable, and thanked them for their faithful labors. It developed that the intention was to make the hospital a homœopathic institution, which it became and now is. Since its doors were thrown open to the public nearly 17,000 cases have been treated with very gratifying results. The hospital has six wards, including the children's; nineteen private rooms, one hundred and three beds, twenty-three regular nurses (for whom a Home was erected in 1913 at a cost of \$45,000), and a well-equipped, sun-lighted and scrupulously clean operating room. The entire institution is under the care and supervision of Sister Rose Vincent, who possesses an attractive personality, keen insight into even the greatest problems presented, and a diplomacy that one might wish to imitate. She is greatly beloved and respected by all who know or even heard of her, which, no doubt, have, in a great measure, conduced to the greater popularity of the institution, independent of the skill displayed by its operating staff, whose members have been selected, not by and through favors, but purely for their knowledge and ability in which they stand very high, judging by many very difficult, delicate and dangerous cases under their observation and care. The staff is as follows: Surgical—Drs. F. S.







ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, PASSAIC



Caverly, H. C. Reynolds, E. P. Whelan, B. P. Willis; Associates—Drs. A. A. Butterfield, R. N. MacGuffie, E. C. Butler, H. E. Dwyer. Medical—Drs. H. F. Datesman, J. N. Ryan, J. R. Riordan; Associates—Drs. C. H. Church, J. J. Szymanski, P. O'Brien. Urologist, Dr. H. L. Maps; Gastro-Enterologist, Dr. D. R. Crounse; Obstetrician, Dr. L. H. Joyce; Ear, Nose, Throat, Dr. W. L. Liefeld; Neurologist, Dr. D. E. Warren; Anasthetist, Dr. A. J. Jahn; Ophthalmologist, Dr. E. C. Reynolds; Roentgenologist, Dr. D. E. Mackay.

#### UNION BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The following is from a former publication by the author of this work:

Immediately after the outbreak of the Civil War, and the first bloodshed, April 19, 1861, the Christian Commission of New York City undertook to care for the comfort of soldiers which the government was inadequately prepared to meet at that time. Appeals were made to the various communities for assistance and among them a letter came to the "Postmaster at Acquackanonk" requesting such aid from the people as they might be willing to give. This letter was handed to Mrs. Dr. John B. Aycrigg, who called a meeting for women at her residence (Templars' Home, Main avenue), Thursday, April 25, 1861. At this meeting an organization was effected, having for its object "the relief of our sick and wounded soldiers." A constitution and by-laws were adopted under the name of Ladies' Relief Society. An election for officers was held and Mrs. Abraham W. Van Riper, (mother of Dr. Cornelius Van Riper), was elected president; Mrs. J. Van Saun, secretary, and Mrs. Charles Aycrigg, treasurer.

At the meeting of July 11, 1861, the society was reorganized under the same name and a new election held, resulting in the re-election of Mrs. Van Riper, president; Mrs. Dr. Cornelius Van Riper, vice-president; Mrs. John M. Howe, secretary, and Mrs. William L. Andruss, treasurer. At this meeting a constitution and by-laws were adopted. Meetings were held twice a month. At the beginning, all their articles of clothing and other supplies were sent to Cooper Institute and Medical Society, of New York. A box sent July 14, 1861, to Cooper Institute, contained 30 flannel shirts, 72 havelocks, 100 testaments. On July 13, a box was sent to the Medical Society, containing 11 sheets, 10 boxes of lint, 55 bandages, shirts and drawers. Beginning July 29, 1861 and continuing to July 1, 1862, boxes were made up and sent, almost monthly, to the Sanitary Commission, Washington, instead of to New York.

In response to an appeal from Governor Parker the Society raised and sent \$28 "towards the purchasing of India rubber blankets for our suffering troops." In addition to their other work the Society sewed for and sent supplies to the hospital at Newark amounting in value to \$928. In March, 1864, the Society prepared articles and collected provisions for the great Metropolitan Fair held in New York City for the benefit of our soldiers, amounting in value to \$210. Even in those far off years the society had sixty annual subscribers, (women) and forty-four honorary (men). From April, 1861 to September, 1865, the society contributed the following: Fifty-five bandages, 8 blankets, 100 comfort bags, 173 havelocks, 133 drawers, 170 handkerchiefs, 10 boxes of lint, 130 pillow cases, 13 pillow ticks, 24 quilts, 78 sheets, 139 flannel shirts, 336 cotton shirts, 8 dozen socks, 1 pair slippers, 6 ticking beds, 2 towels and 21 wrappers. It is estimated that the total contributions from '61 to '65 was about \$4,000. At the September, 1865, meeting, being the last one, the society was dissolved.





Previous to the dissolution of this Ladies' Relief Society, and on July 26, 1864, there was organized the Ladies' Christian Commission of Passaic, as a branch of the parent commission of that name in New York city, organized by the New York Young Men's Christian Association, whose objects were to raise funds, clothing and other supplies, and do sewing for and furnish material aid and spiritual comfort to the Union soldiers. This branch adopted a constitution and by-laws, and elected Mrs. John B. Pell president, Mrs. John M. Howe vice-president, Mrs. (Rev.) J. P. Strong secretary, and Mrs. Charles Ayerigg treasurer. Besides these, there were twenty-four other members at the organization. Meetings were held twice a month in Anderson Hall, 155 River drive. Soon after the close of the war, and on July 12, 1865, the organization was dissolved. The amount of contributions was \$916.59.

Until November 1, 1865, there was no society of a benevolent or charitable kind in the village. On that date a "Sewing Society" was organized in Anderson's hall, for the purpose of sewing for Freedmen and destitute families of soldiers. Mrs. Pell was elected president, and Mrs. Boggs vice-president. The Society became interested in the colored youth, all of whom were excluded from the district school. Miss Jenkins, a member, opened a school for such at her home, (she lived with the family of Dr. John M. Howe, her brother-in-law), and continued the same until the colored children were admitted to the district school.

From this sewing society there was evolved the Ladies' Benevolent Society, which was evidently considered the direct successor of the Christian Commission, because the latter, upon dissolution, paid the balance of money on hand to the Benevolent Society, November 1, 1865. The first officers elected were: Mrs. William L. Andruss, president; Mrs. William J. Boggs, vice-president; Mrs. W. S. Brown, treasurer; Mrs. J. M. Howe, secretary. Meetings were held every two weeks in Speer's hall from December 13, 1866 to February 21, 1867, and thereafter at the homes of various members. The ending of the war ended sewing for the war, and the wants of needy families in this vicinity and the Paterson Orphan Asylum, as well as Newark hospital received attention.

As time passed and the objects which had brought the society into existence had been served, public interest waned, and in order to awaken the interest of the public, the Society was reorganized November 20, 1873, under the name of Female Benevolent Society. This did not accomplish the desired results, and after several meetings there was held what turned out to be the last one on April 8, 1874, when adjournment was made, as recorded in the minutes, "to next Fall, as the Society is small, and very little work accomplished." Meetings were held in the basement of old Public School No. One, on Passaic street. This society dropped out of existence after the last date.

For the next half year nothing is seen or heard of a benevolent socie-





ty here of any kind. There were, however, a number of good women who felt the need of some kind of an organization, and who, on December 9, 1874, organized a society under the name of the Ladies' Benevolent Association, with Mrs. George Denholm, president; Mrs. Maria Joy (Diven), vice-president; Mrs. John M. Howe, secretary, and Mrs. James Waterhouse, treasurer. This name, however, did not seem to satisfy all concerned, and on October 27, 1875, the society was again re-organized under the name of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, and elected as president Mrs. James Waterhouse, who was re-elected in 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879. The minutes from 1879 to 1885 are missing, during which years the meetings continued and the members cared for the orphans of soldiers and their families. The minutes of 1886 show the election of Mrs. T. M. Moore as president. She had been re-elected every year until her death in 1917.

Mrs. J. M. Howe and Mrs. Moore dispensed charity from their homes until December, 1894, when headquarters were established at 21 Bloomfield avenue. In 1897 they were removed to 38 Bloomfield avenue, where they remained until 1910 when the same were removed to their present quarters in the W. C. T. U. building. Mrs. William H. Doremus is now president, having been elected in 1920.

The Passaic Day Nursery has been in existence here for over thirty years, or since June 25, 1891, and was formed for the purpose of taking charge of and feeding little children during the day while the mothers are working, for which a small charge is made of a few cents a day to those who are able to pay. All affairs are managed by a board of directors which elects its president, secretary, treasurer and other administrative officers, including a matron who has the actual charge of the nursery. An up-to-date building, planned to meet all needs, is owned by the Association. It is located at the northwest corner of Columbia avenue and Jefferson street, which, with the land, cost about \$25,000, and all free of mortgage. In addition the Nursery has available quick assets of \$10,000. During the past year 9,908 children were cared for. This was 800 less than last year owing to the number of unemployed. There is a kindergarten department under the supervision of the auxiliary wherein 6,574 were enrolled the past year. This auxiliary is composed entirely of young women who render material assistance in many ways, and in emergencies may be counted upon for assistance. All receipts are made up from yearly subscribers, monthly dues, fines, children's board, donations, interest and the auxiliary, which last year totalled \$6,916, and disbursements amounted to \$6,444, which are about the average.

Present officers: Mesdames William I. Barry, president; Robert D. Benson, vice-president; Mrs. Fannie W. Chase, treasurer; Howard Westervelt, recording secretary; Irving D. Kip, corresponding secretary; J. B. Humphreys, assistant treasurer; Henry A. Barry, auditor.



The executive committee is composed of the president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, Mrs. Charles M. Howe, Mrs. William S. Benson and Mrs. V. Fiske Wilcox. The Nursery has become an absolute necessity, and merits the support in every way of all who desire the welfare of little children, which is the object of this association.

The Passaic Home and Orphan Asylum Association was organized November 22, 1882, and incorporated December 17, 1884. It began by renting the Marsh homestead in Lexington avenue, which was occupied until 1887, when the present commodious home at River drive and Paulison avenue was purchased. A payment of a few thousand dollars was made at once, and a \$10,000 mortgage given back. In May, 1888, Mrs. Peter Reid gave \$6,500, and Mrs. Henry A. Barry, \$1,000, which, with lesser gifts, wiped out the mortgage. In 1914 a dormitory extension was erected at a cost of \$10,000, and now the association owns a comfortable home, standing in the center of spacious grounds, covering an entire block, free of mortgage and worth \$50,000. During all these thirty-six years the work of the association has been carried on without intermission, although sometimes under difficulties for lack of funds. Through the generosity of the late Mr. Peter Reid, the association is assured of an income exceeding the sum raised yearly by fairs and suppers. The Home has done noble work. At the present time fifty orphans are its inmates. The average number provided for is between thirty-five and fifty. The association is managed by a board of women governors, of whom the following are its present officers: President, Mrs. J. O. Totten; Vice-presidents, Mrs. C. S. Deans, Mrs. William W. Scott; Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Hastie; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Ellsworth Shaffo; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. E. Congdon; Treasurer, Mrs. H. K. Beatty; Registrar, Mrs. G. W. Bailey.

#### THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

On the 19th day of January, 1867, the Rev. Philo F. Leavens, a young man of twenty-nine, came here as a home missionary to take charge of the Presbyterian Society (Church) then about to be organized. Rev. Leavens had for six years been connected with the Christian Commission, under whose direction he ministered to disabled soldiers on the battlefields in our Civil War. In this way Rev. Leavens came to know and understand men, more particularly young men, many of whom were found to have little or no interest in the religious services of the church, but who exhibited a decided interest in spiritual young men of the proper type, and in this they were keen judges, and things if presented and carried on through the agencies of, and by, could not be guided by every wind that blew. This Christian Commission had been organized by and under the auspices of the New York Young Men's Christian Association on November 14, 1861, for the purpose of "preaching the gospel to every soldier and marine, to relieve





the sick and wounded, and to bring cheer from home to the men at the front."

Over five thousand volunteer delegates served an average of twenty-eight days each, and more than six and a quarter millions of dollars in cash and supplies were expended. In the vicinity of New York more than one hundred and fifty thousand convalescents were cared for during the period of the war. In his diary, November 10, 1865, he hoped to be "the means of doing good to my kindred and among them chiefly to my little brother." So wrote Dr. Leavens, whose work among men, particularly the "little brothers," gave him a cue, and he immediately directed his attention to the youths of the village, becoming acquainted with every one, who showed him every mark of respect and honor, even to taking off their hats when meeting him. He kept tabs on the number attending all the churches, which showed that many whom he knew personally did not attend. This led to the thought of forming some kind of a religious society for young men and boys. At that time the Y. M. C. A. was little known, but it seemed to Rev. Leavens as having been laid on a good foundation, and its field for good boundless. He laid the matter before several men of his church, who, after investigation and conference with several younger men of the Methodist Church, concluded that the organization of a Y. M. C. A. was the proper thing. A public meeting was called for Monday evening, May 13, 1867, in the basement of the Methodist church (now Municipal Building), which was well attended by middle aged men, young men, boys, Rev. Leavens, Rev. Franklin Johnson, William A. Willard, William A. Denholm, George McGibbon, Rev. John Kershaw, Theodore F. Boggs, Charles Hathaway and others, at which it was unanimously voted to organize a Y. M. C. A. one week later, on which date, viz.: May 20, 1867, the first Y. M. C. A. of Passaic, was organized. William A. Denholm, a Presbyterian, was elected president; Charles Hathaway, Methodist, treasurer; and Theodore F. Boggs, Baptist, secretary, who together with William A. Willard, George McGibbon and David B. Sickels, were trustees. Meetings were held in this room (in the basement of the Methodist church), which was kept open to the public daily, and where work was carried on for three years.

The Ladies' (now Union) Benevolent Society, used this room. On November 14, 1867, the ladies sent to "William A. Denholm, President of the Y. M. C. A.," a vote of thanks for an offer of the use of the room, gratis, which was accepted. At this time (1867) there was organized by the men of the association the Sons of Temperance Society, whose meetings were held here every Monday evening until 1872, when with the association removal was had to the Howe Academy, which then stood at the corner of Academy and Prospect streets, where it attained remarkable success. Then the weekly meeting of the association and Temperance Society were important events. In those days, young men



were not so well dressed while engaged in their daily work as they are today, and for the evening a change of dress was necessary. This change was noticeable on the nights of these meetings, when a score or more of well-behaved young men would congregate in front of the old church, many of them sitting on the "ribbon," or rail fence, dressed in their best.

The first home of this association presented: A clean, well-kept room about twenty-five feet wide and thirty feet long, through which ran a centre aisle covered with grass-woven mat, on either side of which were chairs. At the head of the aisle stood a pulpit desk, raised about one foot from the floor, in front of which was a small table used by the secretary. On one side, about the centre of the length of the room, stood a small cylinder stove, near which was a large table, used for reading purposes, upon which were a few books, papers and magazines. Several kerosene bracket lamps, adorned the walls. The room was inviting in appearance, so much so, that the request of the privilege of holding meetings there was granted. The Temperance Society partaking of a secret society's ritual, changed the setting of the scene by establishing several "posts" about the room for past *master* this; or most *worshipful* that.

William A. Denholm was a most earnest and consistent Christian. He had come here in 1865 from the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, where he had been engaged in the work of the Sunday school of the Ainsley Street Presbyterian Church. When coming here, there being no church of his faith, he identified himself with activities of the Baptists, organizing what, at that time, was perhaps the best and strongest Sunday school in the state, which was attended by scholars whose parents belonged to other denominations, because of the drawing power of Mr. Denholm, who was superintendent. On March 6, 1867, he joined the Presbyterian church, then organized, becoming superintendent of its Sunday school. He became interested in young men, and gave largely of his time to increase the membership of the association, to which he devoted not only evenings, holidays and Sundays, but took time from his regular business in New York City. While only of limited means, he contributed liberally of his money to help not only the association, but to aid worthy young men. He secured a membership of fifty-two and everything was going well until 1870, when business compelled his removal from Passaic. The loss of his influence and leadership was felt at once, and because of the impossibility to find another possessing his affability and talents the association began to decline, and ere long ceased all activities. The good work begun by Mr. Denholm was continued after he left by his young men, who during July to October, 1870, held services in a tent purchased with the proceeds of a collection amounting to \$28.45, and which was erected on the land purchased (1920) by the present Y. M. C. A. The sale of the old church compelled





removal to the Howe Academy, which remained the headquarters until 1874, and work there carried on under the actual supervision of Rev. Leavens, assisted by William E. Wright, the president, but whose business did not permit the giving of much time to the work, which was beginning to lag; consequently very little was done by or in behalf of the young men of the village from May, 1872 to May, 1874, even though the association was in existence, but without funds, caused by the great panic. On Saturday evening, May 23, 1874, in the Presbyterian (now the Netherland Reformed) Church edifice, Park place, there was formed the Young Men's Prayer Meeting Union. This Union held monthly meetings in the Baptist, First and North Reformed Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and occasionally in Dundee Chapel. The meetings were largely attended and services conducted by sincere young men led by Rev. Leavens, prominent among whom were William E. Wright, John Cooper, Charles Holt, James M. Burr and William M. Barr. The writer, W. W. Scott, was also a member of this Union. Meetings were held without interruption, monthly, until March 7, 1876, when the same were changed to weekly, to be held in the Presbyterian church, where on Tuesday evening, May 23, 1876, a crowded church assisted in the service commemorating the second anniversary of the Union. At this service Rev. Leavens made an interesting and instructive address, quoting statistics and relating facts pertaining to the benefits to young men of the Young Men's Christian Association in general. He referred to the one he had organized in 1867, and what it had accomplished, and closed with an urgent appeal to reform or resurrect that old one, or to reorganize a new association. This led to discussion and calling of a meeting in the Baptist church, June 27, for the purposes suggested by Rev. Leavens. At this meeting there was organized an entirely new association, officers elected as well as a Board of Directors, in addition to the appointment of a committee on constitution and by-laws. Within a few days a question was raised regarding the legality of the organization—that public notice should have been given—which was now done, and a "meeting held July 25, 1876, in the Methodist Church, where the association was organized properly," (minutes) and constitution and by-laws adopted. Meetings were held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, August 1 to December 31, 1876, when permanent quarters were secured on the second floor of 162 Prospect street, which were open to the public from 7 to 9 o'clock every evening, and where prayer meetings were held every Tuesday evening. The officers from 1876 to 1878 were, viz.: William E. Wright, president; S. T. Zabriskie, vice-president; John Cooper, secretary; James M. Burr, treasurer; W. I. Barry, H. K. Coddington, A. P. Crosby, R. C. Winship, E. U. Kinsey, on the executive committee.

On January 4, 1877, the good women of the city held a fair in the Methodist church, raising \$200, which was used to purchase periodicals,





books and the New York Daily Tribune. William W. Scott was librarian.

In 1879 Henry K. Coddington was elected president. For nearly a year previous, interest in the association had lagged, scores of members dropped away, while the attendance at prayer meetings was reduced to half a dozen. The executive committee sent out an appeal, calling for help from members, but all in vain. It grew worse until none were left but four officers, who at a special meeting, April 24, 1879, decided to abandon all attempt to keep things moving, and this was done. This unfortunate ending, no doubt, was the outcome of the following circumstances:

Mr. Coddington was a lawyer, but not popular with members, who blamed him for being attorney of the Saloon Men's Association, several members of which he defended, at their trials for violating the law. For this, as well as for other acts permitted, he was charged with conduct unbecoming a president of a Y. M. C. A. These charges were considered at a special meeting, February 11, 1879. He did not deny them, but contended that he had served only in a professional capacity, from which the ethics of the bar would not have excused him. Nevertheless, the committee having charge of the matter could not view it in that light, and by a unanimous vote of the association, Mr. Coddington was asked to resign. He refused and the procession of thirteen lean years was making its appearance just around the corner. The meeting room was abandoned, and books and furniture disposed of to raise enough money to pay all obligations. Thus ended the second association.

The third (or new line) organization was effected April 25, 1892, when a constitution was adopted and a board of fifteen directors elected, who appointed the late Dr. Charles M. Howe, president and Mr. Frederick A. Baker, recording secretary. On May 20th the board engaged Mr. C. H. Kingsbury as general secretary or manager. Headquarters were established on the second floor of the present No. 653 Main avenue, June 1, 1892. Legal incorporation was November 30, 1896. Work was continued with snap and push, increasing gradually until the spring of 1897, when need of larger quarters became apparent and led to the decision of having a building of its own, which was no sooner decided upon than the collection of funds commenced. In June, 1898 then, the late Mr. William I. Barry's gift of \$3,000 for that purpose, added to the generosity of Edo Kip, the owner, secured a conveyance of the valuable plot of land upon which, with the money raised by public subscription, there was erected the present building, Nos. 8-10 Lexington avenue, at the laying of the cornerstone of which, October 29, 1898, Rev. Dr. Leavens, who made the principal address, adverted to the fact that there had been two former associations organized here, "one about thirty-two years ago, and the other in 1876," and compared the little village of the days of 1867-8 to the city today. The erection was proceeded with and the building dedicated September 1, 1899, and



immediately occupied and work there began with renewed vim and energy, and continued to this writing (1921). For the past two years and more this new building, after serving its purposes, was found inadequate, and becoming outgrown, seriously embarrassed the work for young men and boys, and made a larger building necessary.

The boards of directors and trustees decided upon raising by public subscription \$500,000 for the benefit of the Y. W. C. A., Boys' Club and its own organization, for which purpose a campaign extending from January 16-26, 1920, was inaugurated, during which nearly \$700,000 was raised, to be divided: Twenty per cent. to the Y. W. C. A.; twenty per cent. to the Boys' Club, and sixty per cent. to the Y. M. C. A. With these large sums great things will be done by each. The large plot of ground on River drive (known as Speer's Chateau property), has already been purchased and paid for, the very premises upon which that little pioneer band of young men erected a tent, wherein to hold services in July, 1870. In this act there seems to have been a destiny for this parcel of land, then dedicated to the uplift and benefit of young men, since which, in the words of the poet:

"God has been working out his purpose  
Which He then did have in mind;  
To give to young men service,  
Of the true and better kind."

The following are the names of the presidents and general secretaries: Presidents—Dr. Charles M. Howe, 1892-94; David Carlisle, 1894-1900; Edwin Flower, 1900-05; Edward A. Greene, 1905-10; Thomas A. R. Goodlatte, 1910. General Secretaries—C. H. Kingsbury, 1892-94; E. T. Fleming, 1894-96; William F. Daum, 1896-1903; C. E. Hones, 1903-05; George Fitzsimmons, 1905-10; George Walker, 1910; Louis H. Stilmar, 1911-13; Harold B. Drew, 1913-15; Herbert E. Parker, 1915 to the present time.

The association does good work for young men and boys, of whom nearly 50,000 avail themselves of its advantages every year, and for many of whom positions have been secured and homes obtained.

The building committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, composed of William S. Benson, chairman; T. A. R. Goodlatte, Edward A. Greene, Samuel Hird, Henry A. Barry, John Murphy, Jr., and Herbert E. Parker, secretary, has accepted the plans for a new six-story and basement "Y" building. This acceptance followed six months' careful study of modern association buildings in all parts of the country, carried on through both visitation and correspondence and after frequent discussion of plans with the architect, John F. Jackson. The construction of the new building was begun on November 11, 1921. The cost will be \$325,000.

The style of the proposed building will be modified Italian renaissance. It will have all the features common to the most modern associations and, in addition, a great living room for men on the first floor. This new idea, proposed by Chairman Benson and enthusiastically received and adopted by the committee, is an adaptation of





the social hall feature so popular in the war camp "Y" buildings. The accessibility, the attractiveness and the size of such a room will make its use possible in connection with every phase of the association program.

On the first floor of the new building will be located the lobbies, the living room above referred to, reading rooms, game rooms, billiard room, boys' club rooms, gymnasium and auxiliary gymnasium, hand-ball court and secretaries' offices. The auxiliary gymnasium will be used for boys' classes when the main gymnasium is occupied. It will also be utilized for overflow seating for basketball matches and other contests in the main gym. It will still further serve as a small banquet room and as space for the speakers' table at large banquets held in the large gymnasium.

The basement, which is in reality not a basement at all, owing to the sharp decline of the ground toward the river and which has, therefore, almost as much light as any other floor, contains locker rooms accommodating 3,500 members, separate shower baths for both men and boys and a magnificent swimming pool, twenty-one by seventy-five feet in size, lighted both by windows and sky-light and fitted with seats for 250 spectators. On this floor will also be placed the bowling alleys, barber and tailor shops, general toilet rooms, heating plant, engineer's room, coal storage, work shop, several class rooms.

The second floor will have a cafeteria, with complete kitchen and storage equipment, private dining rooms to be used in connection with the meetings of "Y" groups and to be made available to other organizations, class and lecture rooms and the running track of the gymnasium.

On the floors above will be the dormitories, each room provided with a closet and each floor fully equipped with toilets and showers.

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

In April and May, 1898, two meetings were held at the residence of Mrs. T. R. Goodlatte, 20 Lexington avenue, to consider the possibility of forming an organization in the interest of the young women of Passaic for their social, physical, mental and spiritual needs. These meetings were addressed by Miss Harriet Taylor and Miss Crawford of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association. It was decided that a Y. W. C. A. should be started in Passaic if, after a careful canvass of the city, sufficient financial support could be secured. Miss Crawford spent several weeks in visiting factories to collect needful statistics and in calling upon as many of the citizens as possible to solicit their interest and support. As a result of her work, the Young Women's Christian Association of Passaic was organized at a public meeting held in the parlors of Mrs. J. P. Boggs, June 27, 1898. The following board of directors was elected: Mesdames T. R. Goodlatte, Irving Angell, F. E. Taylor, Walter Morrill, Edward Phillips, Frank Grubb, William L. Clark, Samuel Wilcox and Miss Caroline S. Pudney. The officers were: President, Mrs. T. R. Goodlatte; vice-president, Mrs. Edward Phillips; secretary, Miss Caroline S. Pudney; treasurer, Mrs. W. L. Clark. A General Secretary, Miss Anna E. Scott, was se-



cured in August. In September rooms were rented and furnished at 116 Washington place. Classes were formed in English, penmanship, sewing, cooking, and Bible study, which included a class of foreign girls. Choral and physical culture classes followed during the year. At the close of the year the association numbered one hundred eight sustaining, active and associate members.

In September, 1899, larger accommodations were secured in the "Jefferson" corner of Main avenue and Jefferson street. In September, 1904, the house at 20 Lexington avenue, known as the Edo Kip homestead, was made available for the association through the kindness of the Goodlatte family. The work was greatly enlarged, and included a boarding department. This house, was in 1906, given to the association by the heirs of the Kip estate, and in 1907 was moved to its present position, 209 Madison street. A campaign in 1912 made possible the erection of a gymnasium in the rear of the house.

The next event marking special history in the association was that of the United Campaign of the Y. M. C. A., Boys' Club and Y. W. C. A., in 1920 for buildings and two-year budgets, which succeeded beyond all expectations, securing the financial assistance of which each stood in need. The building just finished for the Y. W. C. A. has its site on the easterly side of the city, at the corner of Fourth and Bergen streets, and is for the foreign community work of the Association's International League.

The Y. W. C. A. membership of January 1, 1922, numbered 1,342. The staff consisted of six secretaries at the Central building and four secretaries in the centres at Reid Library and Garfield. The members of the 1921 board are Mrs. E. M. Applegate, Mrs. Harry Aspell, Miss E. F. Behler, Mrs. John Carlisle, Mrs. C. H. Church, Mrs. F. B. Conant, Mrs. Walter Eastman, Miss Ruth Fairchild, Mrs. Edwin Flower, Miss A. R. Goodlatte, Mrs. R. R. Goodlatte, Mrs. E. A. Greene, Miss Lucille Green, Miss Ida Jelleme, Mrs. William I. Jelleme, Mrs. H. G. Mertens, Mrs. H. E. Parker, Mrs. Seth Clark, Miss Carolyn A. Smith, Miss Alva Seger, Miss E. C. Spencer, Miss M. E. Steele, Mrs. W. L. Sturtevant, Mrs. G. A. Terhune, Mrs. W. Van Arsdale, Mrs. C. L. Wright. The officers are: President, Miss Carolyn A. Smith; first vice-president, Miss Emma C. Spencer; second vice-president, Mrs. John Carlisle; recording secretary, Mrs. W. L. Sturtevant; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. L. Wright; treasurer, Miss M. E. Steele.

Many hundred girls employed in factory, office, store and domestic service, and school girls, have had constructive, personal, character building. Clubs, industrial classes, gymnastics, athletics, and swimming have been included in the program. Through the International Institute Branch, hundreds of foreign-born women and girls have been helped to better understand America, and to more happily fill their places in our community life. The Boarding Home at 209 Madison





street has been a home and haven to scores of strange women and girls in this community.

The Passaic Boys' Club was incorporated November 9, 1910, for the purpose of looking after and protecting the moral and material interests of the boys of the city in general, but more especially boys of the East Side, with the blessings and advantages of good homes.

For the purposes contemplated, work has been conducted in rented rooms in Dundee, which were soon found inadequate, making clear the fact that larger quarters were necessary, which was agitated for some time until, finally, it was decided to erect a modern, up-to-date club house. The amount of money needed was included in the budget raised by popular subscription in 1916 for the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., and the Boys' Club, whereby this club received over \$100,000 which is now being used in building and equipping the club house, which will be erected on Third street, adjoining the Reid Memorial Library, and running back to Fourth street. It will have space and facilities to take care of more than a thousand boys and men. The first floor plans will include a big, open room, where any boy may come, meet his friends and play games. The offices of the secretary and physical director will be on the same floor, as well as a large gymnasium and examination and cloak room. The second floor provides for a large combination room, which can be used for a motion picture auditorium and banquet hall, or five class rooms, club rooms, kitchen and mothers' rest room. The basement floor will contain the locker rooms, shower baths, heating plant and four rooms for group clubs, vocational guidance work and billiard rooms.

Eastside boys have been clamorous for a swimming pool, and they will get it in their new club building. It will be twenty-one by sixty feet, in the rear of the building, lighted by direct sunlight.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association was organized at first in 1920, but did not succeed, whereupon a re-organization was effected in 1921, and on the evening of October 30th an elaborate program in connection with the installation of officers of the Y. M. H. A. was held in Smith Academy. Irving L. Werksman was chairman of the evening. The officers were installed into office by the former president of the Y. M. H. A., Herman Moskowitz, of this city. The following were installed: Commissioner Abram Preiskel, president; Meyer Weinberg, vice-president; Hyman Kramer, secretary, and Samuel Glass, treasurer. The program was opened with a brief address by Mr. Werksman and followed by a piano selection by Sidney Lobsenz, of this city, which was delightfully rendered and well received by all.

Adolph Weinstein, the new general secretary of the Y. M. H. A. was introduced and he spoke on "The Workings of the Y. M. H. A." Herman Moskowitz made a few remarks after which he installed the new officers into office. Other speakers of the evening were Mr. Preiskel, the





new president; Mr. Weinberg, Joseph A. Feder and Manuel Prenner, a member of the Jewish Welfare Board.

Commissioner Preiskel promised that he would give his utmost support to the Y. M. H. A., and asked the co-operation of the members to make the organization a credit to this city.

Mr. Feder read a set of resolutions of thanks, which were adopted on behalf of the Jewish Welfare Board for the assistance which it has given to the Y. M. H. A. by sending here two of its members, Dr. Philip Goldstein and Manuel Prenner, to stimulate more interest in the organization. Mr. Prenner was presented with a solid gold pencil. A fine musical program was later carried out. Music was furnished by Carlock's Orchestra of Newark, of which Harry Brown, of the Six Brown Brothers, is a member. A splendid attendance of members and their friends were present that night.

Following the proclamation of President Wilson, declaring the week of May 24-31, 1917, to be Red Cross Week, the Passaic Chapter of that organization has been most faithful in its labors. On November 12, 1921, in a statement given out by the Passaic Chapter of the American Red Cross, Mrs. Robert D. Benson, chairman of the chapters, explained what disposition is made of the money received from the members.

What does the Passaic Red Cross do with its money received from members?" The chapter has given financial relief to 1,538 families consisting of the payment of rent, supplying food, clothing, medical attention, hospital care. Assistance has been given the ex-service men in collecting compensation, back pay, and the families of deceased men have been helped to file and collect their insurance claims and state bonus. Through the efforts of the chapter, co-operating with the Federal Board of Vocational Education representative in this section, Mr. P. I. Diegman, 258 ex-service men have been placed in vocational training and are drawing a monthly allowance from the government of from \$100 to \$180. All legal and court work for the ex-service men and their families has been given without any expense to the man or his family. General supervision has been kept over the legal ex-service men who have been confined to hospitals and institutions. Employment has been secured for many of the men and also for various members of their families.

Membership in the Red Cross costs \$1.00 for the year.



## CHAPTER XLV.

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

One of the greatest patriotic clubs or societies of this vicinity was: "Passaic Council No. 90 of Passaic Village, N. J., Union League of America," one of a chain of clubs throughout the North, whose objects as set forth in their constitution were: "To preserve Liberty and the United States; to maintain the Constitution thereof and that of the State, and the supremacy of the laws of the United States; to sustain the existing Administration of the United States in putting down the enemies of the Government, and thwarting the designs of traitors and disloyalists and to protect, strengthen and defend all loyal men, without regard to sect, condition or party."

The League was organized during 1862, when men were being drafted into military service, and the members of the League assumed the responsibility of maintaining order, looking out for and protecting the person and property of all loyalists, and keeping eye and ear open for enemies and traitors. Efficient service was performed in a work which at the time was precarious and required tact, and all rendered gratuitously and willingly. The officers of this Council were: James A. Norton, president; Dr. Richard A. Terhune, vice-president; James S. Biddell, assistant vice-president; David B. Sickels, secretary; B. B. Ayerigg, treasurer; Rev. M. B. Smith, chaplain; P. A. Van Riper, sentinel; John H. Conover, marshal, all of whom have deceased. When the war was over, the League ceased activities and passed out of existence.

Passaic Lodge No. 67, F. & A. M., was in existence long before the city was incorporated, and no better proof of its stability could be given than that of its existence today, after more than half a century since its organization, June 30, 1864.

The next oldest active benevolent society is the Benevolent Lodge, No. 48, Knights of Pythias, organized April 26, 1870, by J. Manly Ackerman, Andrew J. Bodle, Edward F. Brainerd, William F. Childs, William J. Cooper, Albert Clark, A. L. Crawford, Robert S. Elliott, John Hall, P. B. Hathaway, Abel Horton, James K. Knowlden, James B. Mandeville, Adrian Norman, Matthias Norman, Samuel Rudyard, James Watson, William Van Saun and John A. Doremus. The latter living in Paterson is the sole survivor of this number.

St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Benevolent Society of Passaic was organized by a charter granted March 20, 1872, to Thomas Meade, Thomas Giblin, Michael Beirne, Moses Mulchinoek, Timothy Hagerty, Henry Frain, Michael King, Patrick Williams, Michael Driscoll, Michael Waters, John Syns and Thomas Merion. In these names we can see some of Passaic's most enterprising citizens. The society is still in





existence, and has a record for doing good, of which it may well be proud.

The Ombull Tribe 35, Improved Order of Red Men, at Passaic City, was incorporated by a special charter on March 24, 1874, given to John Malison, John Hawley, John A. Davies, John Fitzgerald, Abraham Kranenberg, James Wilson, Otto Smith, George Williams, William Kew, Abraham Schoonmaker and William C. Smith. The order is purely benevolent, and is still in a thriving condition, holding meetings regularly.

The present Women's Christian Temperance Union is the direct outgrowth of the series of meetings held in Passaic during November, 1884, by Mable and English, well-known temperance evangelists. A small union existed a number of years before, but had been a long time out of existence. The first president of the union was Mrs. E. B. Howe, mother of the late Dr. Charles M. Howe. The first president of the present organization was Mrs. C. A. Church, mother of Dr. Charles H. Church.

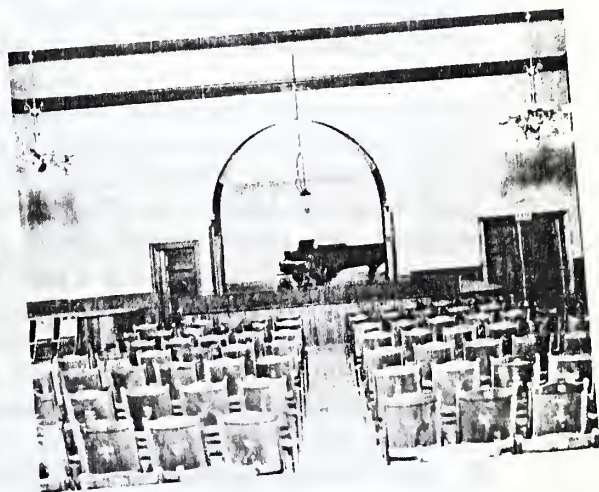
The Kenilworth Society was organized in 1881, with David Carlisle as its first president. The membership of the society is limited to forty—twenty men and twenty women. Meetings are held every two weeks at the various homes of members, from October to May. The society is purely literary and social in its purposes. The present officers are William H. Carey, president; Mrs. Edward Mott Wooley, vice-president; Mrs. S. Ainsworth Hird, secretary, and Mrs. John J. Jackson, treasurer.

The saying that history repeats itself is exemplified in the present Passaic Club, as it may not be very well known that in 1874 a special act was passed incorporating the Passaic Club of the City of Passaic. The charter was granted to John F. Barclay, William S. Gutierrez, Eli W. Vonder Smith, John Kennell, Louis C. Hampton, Charles D. Ronk, Peter Molloy, Benjamin F. Popple, James Hulse, Robert B. Smith, and Dr. Richard A. Terhune, all now deceased. The objects of the club, as expressed in the charter, were: For the purpose of establishing a reading-room, and in other lawful ways improving mental and physical education and social intercourse among its members. Power was given to purchase real estate and personal property necessary to carry out the purposes of its creation; to elect officers and generally to do whatever was necessary for its existence. This charter was perpetual.

The club organized, but for many a year held no meeting and consequently it is presumed the club had no existence.

A Passaic Club was organized January 17, 1887, by former members of the Passaic County Wheelmen and others, and was thereafter known as the Passaic City Wheeling and Athletic Association, of which Mr. John T. Granger was elected president. With the assistance of progressive citizens the Association purchased the old Catholic church property, razed the building and erected the present handsome clubhouse, corner





MEETING ROOM

EXTERIOR VIEW

AUDITORIUM

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION





Main avenue and Prospect street.

On July 2, 1894, the Passaic City Club was organized, and reorganized April 22, 1913. Subsequently the name was changed to Passaic Club, which it now bears. It is the owner of its club house, is very popular, and at the present time has a large membership and is in good financial condition.

The Washington Club was incorporated November 11, 1897, name changed to Acquackanonk Club, May 19, 1899. A flaw being discovered in the proceedings to change the name, led to the incorporation of the Acquackanonk Club, March 28, 1914, which was done to enable the club to convey its clubhouse on Prospect street, which it did soon after, and many of its former members joined the Passaic Club. The old club maintains existence in the Prospect building.

Two clubs organized only recently—Rotary and Lions—have become as popular as the Elks or Moose. Each is devoting energies for the betterment of men and boys and advancement of civic pride, and at times assist the Chamber of Commerce. There are, also, a score of religious clubs doing good work.

CLUBS—For the man that has the time and the inclination to use them, there are all kinds of clubs here at his disposal. The principal ones are as follows: Acquackanonk, Acquackanonk Wheelmen, Amicus, American Athletic Club, Boost Club, Calumet, City Club, Clan McLean Football Club, Club Ital-Americano Di Mutus Soccorso Umberto, Club Progressita Italo-Americano, Columbia Athletic Club, German Club, Germania Bowling, Horseshoe Social, Humbert Italian-American, Imperial Athletic, Lions, Monday Afternoon, Mothers', National Athletic, Naturheil Verein, North Passaic Rifle, Passaic, Passaic Boys, Passaic Dramatic, Passaic Glee, Passaic Republican, 2,000 members, Passaic Union Republican, Phil Sheridan, Roosevelt Republican, Rotarians, Vilette, Willowdale Dramatic, Young Men's Social, Yountakah Country Club.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS—Passaic organizations coming under various categories are as follows: Adamsky's Orchestra, Arion Singing Society, Botany Singing Society, Century Club, Cremation Society, First Hungarian Dramatic Amateur Society, Hoffman's Band, Holland Singing Society, Hungarian Republican Club, Hotz's Band, Ice Dealers' Association, Kenilworth Society, Klein's Orchestra, Liquor Dealers' Protective Association, Passaic Association of Retail Druggists, Passaic City Medical Society, Passaic Maennerchor, Passaic Turn Verein, Washington Drum, Fife and Bugle Corps.

FRATERNAL, BENEVOLENT AND SECRET BODIES—Fraternal, benevolent and secret bodies abound in Passaic, there being scarcely an organization professing any or all these attributes but is represented here. It was intended to present the benevolent, fraternal and secret bodies separately, but this was found to be an impossible task, for nearly every





society coming under any of these heads professes the other two. The fraternal, benevolent and secret orders are therefore given together, as follows: Ancient Order of Hiberians, Division 5; A. O. United Workmen, Unity Lodge, No. 53; B. P. O. Elks, Passaic Lodge No. 387; Clan McLean, No. 133, O. S. C.; Companions of the Forest, Passaic Circle No. 719; Foresters, Courts Acquackanonk, No. 22, Liberty No. 39, Old Glory No. 154; F. O. Eagles, Passaic Aerie No. 605; G. U. O. Odd Fellows, Rose of Sharon Lodge No. 5576 (colored); I. O. Brith Abraham, Passaic City Lodge, No. 193; I. O. Free Sons of Joseph, Joseph Spitz Lodge, No. 1; Joseph Eisman Lodge, No. 2; Star Lodge, No. 3; Nathan Straus Lodge, No. 4; Progressive Lodge, No. 6; I. O. Sons of Jacob, Beth Jacob Lodge, No. 29; I. O. Heptasophs, Passaic Conclave, No. 36; I. O. Odd Fellows, Amelia Lodge, No. 215; Concordia Rebekah Lodge, No. 56; Passaic Encampment, No. 62; Solar Lodge, No. 171; Waverly Rebekah Lodge, No. 36; I. O. Red Men, Little Ha Ha Tribe, No. 138; Minisee Council, No. 12, D. of P., Passaic Tribe, No. 47; Junior Order U. A. M., Passaic City Council, No. 147; Knights of Honor, Advance Lodge, No. 4575; Knights and Ladies of Honor, Smith Lodge; Knights of Columbus, Perez Council, No. 262; Knights of the Golden Eagle, Bright Star Temple, No. 33; L. of G. E., Passaic Castle, No. 64; Knights of Pythias, Benevolent Lodge, No. 48; Woodland Temple, No. 1, P. S.; Masons—Masonic Association, Centennial Chapter, No. 34; R. A. M.; Lessing Lodge, No. 189, F. & A. M.; Passaic Lodge, No. 67, F. & A. M.; Stella Chapter, No. 20, O. E. S.; Washington Commandery, K. T.; Modern Woodmen of America, Acquackanonk Camp, No. 7445; Passaic Camp, No. 12366; National Union, Passaic Council, No. 803; Order of Hermann Sons, Germania Lodge, No. 6; Prince Henry Lodge, No. 12; Victoria Ladies' Lodge; Royal Arcanum, Passaic Council, No. 1092; Sons of St. George, Loyalty Lodge, No. 225; Tribe of Ben Hur, Court No. 7; U. A. Order of Druids, Humboldt Grove, No. 20; U. O. True Reformers, Passaic Fountain, No. 1857; Union Benevolent Society; Calico Printers' Benevolent Association; Catholic Women's Benevolent Association; Children's Sick Benefit Association; Christopher Columbus Benevolent Society; Elsass Lothringer Benefit and Sick Society; Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association; First Hungarian Social and Benevolent Association; Hungarian Reformed Sick Benevolent Ladies' Society; Independent Order Bris Schille; Passaic Austro-Hungarian Sick Benefit Society; Passaic Firemen's Relief Association; St. Anton's Sick Benefit Society, St. Elizabeth's Sick Benevolent Ladies' Society; St. Stephen's Hungarian, Roman and Greek Catholic Sick Benevolent Society; Sick Benefit Society of North Passaic; Society Nederland; Verein Junger Maenner, Workingmen's Sick Benefit Federation; Young Men's Sick Benefit Society St. Patrick's Alliance, Branch No. Five; St. Joseph's Society, Greek Catholic Union; Slovenska Jednoty; Venesokol Sbor. No. 1;



Hollandsche Tooneel Vereeniging Pannonia Obd, No. 19, Nar Slov Spolek; Columbus Verein; Association of Exempt Firemen.

OTHER CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS—With the benevolent societies may be classed the charitable organizations of Passaic, which are as follows: Cirila Methoda, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Daughters of Jacob, Society Christian Instruction, Hebrew Sheltering Home, Aid Society for Widows and Orphans of Germans, Austrians and Hungarians, Jewish Community, First Hungarian Men and Ladies' Sick and Death Benefit Society.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS—Organized labor is strong here, as is apparent from a perusal of the many branches of labor unions that are located in Passaic. Following are the labor organizations in Passaic: Amalgamated Sheet Metalworkers International Alliance, No. 109; Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, No. 12; Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, No. 174; Independent Hodecarriers' and Building Laborers' Union, No. 10; International Typographical Union, No. 178; Loom Fixers' Association; Master Builders' Association; Master Plumbers' Association; National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 65; National Association of Stationary Engineers; United Association of Journeymen Plumbers; United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, No. 490; Passaic District Council; United Association of Postoffice Clerks.





## CHAPTER XLVI.

### ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAYS—TELEPHONE.

Immediately following the coming of the Botany Worsted Mills, which came soon after steam railroad facilities had been afforded manufacturers, the construction of electric street railways began, the credit for the introduction of which belongs to Wolston R. Brown, who had lived in Passaic from early boyhood, and arose from humble life to its mayoralty.

Although aware that Paterson's antiquated horse car system had proved a colossal failure, causing big losses to its stockholders, he dared to risk his money and that of his friends in the construction of a trolley line in the City of Passaic, which at that time had no street railway, but which was to have the honor of having the first trolley line in New Jersey.

With this end in view, there was incorporated the Passaic, Garfield and Clifton Railway Company, which by an ordinance of the Council of the City of Passaic, approved November 25, 1889, and by ordinance of the Township of Acquackanonk approved a month later, was granted the privilege of locating its track on the center line of Passaic street from Garfield bridge to Main avenue, and along Main avenue to Piaget avenue; Clifton. The road was to be finished within nine months. Cars were to run every fifteen minutes from 6:30 a. m. to 6 p. m., and every thirty minutes from 6:30 p. m. to 9 p. m., until the population reached 40,000, and thereafter until 11 p. m. In January, 1890, the company was granted the right to construct a spur at Garfield bridge and a switch on Main avenue near Passaic street. Work was begun at once at the Garfield end of the road, but the cold winter weather held up construction until the spring of 1890, when work was resumed and pushed energetically until its completion the following June 1st, when, had there not been delay in the delivery of the cars, the road would have begun operations, as everything was ready.

The first trolley car to operate and the first to be successful and continuous in this State was run over this road.

The first cars had no vestibules to protect the motormen from the weather. Their position was an arduous one in stormy, wintry weather. The platforms were entirely open all around. After suffering a long time from the weather, the motormen hung a piece of canvas over the front with a small hole through which they could look ahead. Later canvas was hung on each side. This led to the construction of a board front, with window sash therein, which served all purposes, until the entire platform was inclosed, but without doors, which were added in 1910. Hand-brakes were the first in use from 1890 to 1896, when elec-



tric ones were tried, but did not answer the purpose, which the air-brake was found to do to perfection.

Saturday, July 26, 1890, at 4:30 p. m., two electrically propelled cars left the little car barn on Main avenue near Harrison street: the first one with a Mr. Johnston, motorman, and Charles Brown, conductor, in charge of Superintendent A. G. Earle, who had as guests: David Campbell, Jr., Gilbert D. Bogart, William C. Kimball, Thomas R. Watson, Edward Hogan, Police Chief Hendry, Patrick S. Galvin, D. W. Mahoney (all now deceased), A. T. Zabriskie, Joseph Whitehead, Hugh Guthrie, Christian Huber and Richard Morrell. The last named was secretary of the Railway Company. The second car, in charge of the man who built the road, Mr. Freeman, with the late Police Lieutenant John N. Meade, motorman, and G. A. Neiven, conductor, had as guests: Lawyers Thomas M. Moore, William W. Scott; John Kennell, Sr., O. S. Freeman, George V. DeMott; Wentworth and George M. Rollins, of New York; Percy Dobbins, of Long Branch; and Walston R. Brown, directors of the company, and others. The entire route was thronged with men, women and children, who gazed in amazement and wonder as the cars glided by. The trip to the Garfield bridge was made in sixteen minutes. Returning, the throngs of people were doubled, but the motormen, as they were called, ploughed their way through without accident and made the home run in seventeen minutes. The excitement continued all that day, and the cars were crowded. At half past five the five cent fare rate was enforced. Over one thousand persons rode between 5:30 and 10:00 o'clock. No cars operated the next day (Sunday), in consequence of sinking tracks, causing derailments. Wherever tracks had been laid on soft soil over the new sewer, which had just been laid in Main avenue, they sank. This was remedied, and by July 29th cars were running every few minutes and have continued daily ever since. Mr. Charles R. Newman was the man who turned on the power which started and propelled these two first cars. The cars were twenty-six feet long, with four wheels (no trucks), six windows on each side, underneath which was "Passaic, Garfield and Clifton Railway." Five of such cars and a construction car composed all the rolling stock of this road, which continued operations daily, in the meanwhile trying to extend the line to Paterson city limits.

For a time Seba M. Bogart, who owned a lengthy frontage in Clifton, refused to give his consent to erect poles in front of his property. As the result of litigation, the company was compelled to extend long iron arms from the opposite side of the street, which continued until October 20, 1891, when poles were substituted. Pushing on thence the road was built to Piaget avenue, where the Erie railroad had a track leading into the race track, across Main avenue. Although held up here, the road was continued to Crooks avenue, and cars began running through Clifton immediately after completion, but for months the cars





stopped at Piaget avenue, where passengers were transferred to another car on the other side of the Erie track. This continued until December, 1890, when the Erie consented, and cars ran through to Crooks avenue, where connection was made at first with the horse cars and later with the trolley. The one-way fare to Paterson at that time was fifteen cents, of which Passaic, (now) Clifton, and Paterson received five cents each. On May 2, 1891, the control of the company was acquired by the stockholders of the Paterson Horse Cars Railroad Company, among whom was Garret A. Hobart, with a capital of \$1,200,000, and the name changed to the Paterson Electric Railway (under law of April 16, 1891), which name for the first time appeared on a new car No. 6 that arrived in Passaic on September 16, 1891. Originally there was but a single track. Later, permission was given to put switches in--one at Garfield bridge; between Third and Fourth streets; between canal and raceway, on Passaic street; between Passaic and Academy streets; between Jefferson and Madison streets; Harrison to Summer streets. In July, 1893, fare to Paterson was made five cents. In April, 1894, double track was laid on Main avenue, all the way.

Although the Passaic, Rutherford and Carlstadt Electric Railway bore the name of Passaic, it was not a local enterprise, but a link in a chain of roads from Paterson to Hoboken, of which James A. Morrissee was the promoter. In fact, the road was for some years referred to as the "Morrissee Road."

This company was incorporated September 28, 1892. Its first route through Passaic was: Lexington avenue, southerly to Madison street, thence to Hamilton avenue, thence to Monroe street, to Second, to Mercer or Jefferson, thence to Columbia avenue, thence to Aspen street, to State street, to Park place, to East Main avenue, to the County bridge, at the foot of Gregory avenue. In January, 1893, this route was first amended, substituting Central avenue for Lexington avenue, because the necessary consents of land owners on Lexington avenue could not be secured, but continuing the route as first laid out. The City Council having refused to give consent to construct the road through Mercer and Jefferson Streets, between Second street and Columbia avenue and through that avenue to and through Aspen to State street, the route was in June, 1893, changed to run from Madison street southerly through Hamilton avenue, Washington place and State street, to connect at that street with former route, which was followed to the County bridge.

On January 6, 1894, the ordinance granting the company the right to construct its road was approved by the mayor, and construction began, but was slow, because of the opposition of a number of land owners, who secured injunctions, which resulted in protracted litigation that was settled only upon payment of large sums. This was repeated along





the entire line to its termini, and led to bankruptcy in time. In 1894 the name was changed, putting "Paterson" at the front.

In order to strengthen a losing venture, Mr. Morrissee organized the New Jersey Electric Railway Company, with a capital of \$2,000,000 in September, 1894, which obtained control of the stock and assumed the work of completing the road. By an ordinance of the City Council, approved by the mayor July 11, 1895, this company was granted the right to construct its road across Second Street bridge, and through that street to Hudson street, to connect with the Passaic, Rutherford and Carlstadt road. In 1897 it went into the hands of a receiver and was sold to the North Jersey Traction Company, which continued the ownership until 1903, when, with many other trolley roads, it became the property of that powerful, progressive and prosperous monopoly known as the Public Service Corporation.

The Passaic and Newark Electric Railway was organized by Passaic men to construct a road from Passaic to Belleville. Its first certificate of incorporation laid its route from Passaic street down Main to Pennington, thence through that avenue westerly to Prospect, through Prospect to Erie, to and through Erie street, to and through High street to Ayerigg avenue, thence to Franklin (now Main) avenue, thence to city limits. This was in June, 1892. Erie street, now Main avenue, between Pennington and Prospect and between Gregory and Paulison avenues, was not then opened, hence the detours on Pennington avenue and High street and Ayerigg avenue. But this route did not suit, and on January 2, 1893, the same was amended to run from Passaic street southerly along old Main avenue (now River drive) to Ayerigg avenue, thence westerly along the same to and through Franklin (now Main) avenue to the city limits.

With this route in view, consent of the owner of the required number of feet of land was secured in the following March. Before any further action was taken, objections were raised as to this route, because it crossed the Erie railroad at two points, to obviate which the route was again, and on July 17, 1893, amended, to run over the route upon which the road now operates. In September following, the company sold its rights in old Main avenue (River drive) to the Passaic, Rutherford and Carlstadt Electric Railway Company. In July, 1893, those parts of Erie street (now Main avenue) between Pennington avenue and Prospect street, and between Gregory and Paulison avenues not being opened, obliged the company to purchase a right of way over a strip of land nine feet wide between Pennington avenue and Prospect street for \$1,000. It was soon found that the cost in money and time of acquiring all the privately owned land needed would seriously cripple construction, hence application was at once made to the city council to open and grade Erie street its entire length, resulting in the opening by an ordinance of May 22, 1894. The company found it much easier to



get through Passaic avenue, in the township, from the Passaic city to the Essex county line. The company's petition was presented to the Acquackanonk township committee October 28, 1892, and on December 10th following, permission to build the road was granted. In May, 1895, the company built its first and only car barn at Delawanna, near Yanticaw river, opposite the road to Stone House Plains, but which was never used for the purposes intended. The road between Passaic street and Brook avenue was completed November 1, 1893, and a shuttle car operated thereon until the next summer, when the road was completed to the Essex county line, where it was stalled until June 1, 1895, when the road was opened to the Big Tree. In July, 1895, the Erie brought suit to compel the trolley to go over or under the Paterson and Newark (steam) railroad. The court decided that the trolley should go under.

Even in those early days, July, 1895, cars were run aplenty. On the seventh of that month the writer counted fifty cars going each way on regular schedule, carrying 439 passengers.

From the Big Tree to Joralemon street, Belleville, the company had to fight its way for nearly two years. The old Newark, or Clinton Horse Car, Street Railway, terminating at Joralemon street, had then lately been purchased by the Consolidated Traction Company, whose purpose was to extend the former Horse Car line to the Big Tree, and eventually to and through Franklin (now Nutley). But while the Consolidated people were planning, the Passaic people were acting, having already made the proper application for permission to build the road. Notwithstanding the opposition from the powerful Consolidated Company, public officials and land owners, the Passaic people, under the guidance of their astute lawyer, Thomas M. Moore, obtained the required right to construct, but not until January 2, 1897, when the ordinance therefor was passed.

On April 26, 1895, the Passaic and Newark Electric Traction Company (about this time the name "traction" became popular and was used instead of railway), was formed, to which and on June 1st following, a sale was made of all property, with a lease of the rights of way, &c., for ninety-nine years for \$310,000, to be paid in stock of the new company and \$5,000 annual rental.

While struggling to get beyond the Big Tree the company had troubles over fares, schedules of which were upset by the stage wagon that had never been even contemplated. For this the company was charged (and it was true) with violating the ordinance of Franklin, which provided for fares shown on placards that were posted in the cars. They read:

GOING SOUTH:			GOING NORTH:		
Passaic to	Acquackanonk.....	5 cents	Big Tree to	Franklin.....	2 cents
" "	Centre Street.....	5 "	" " "	Acquackanonk ....	7 "
" "	Big Tree.....	7 "	" " "	Passaic .....	7 "
" "	Newark .....	12 "	Franklin "	" .....	5 "





Acquackanonk to Franklin.....	5	"	For continuous ride in the City	
" " Belleville .....	8	"	of Passaic and Townships of	
" " Newark .....	12	"	Acquackanonk or Franklin...	5
Franklin to Belleville.....	5	"	Children between 5 and 12 years	
" " Newark .....	7	"	of age .....	3

Transfers were given to Paterson and Garfield bridge, to passengers taking car north of D., L. and W. railroad bridge at Brook avenue.

The Big Tree was up to recent years seen growing sturdily, nearly opposite the car barns, Nutley, where it had stood for more than ninety years. But this was not all. A passenger for Passaic, after leaving the Newark horse car at Belleville and boarding the stage, would pay five cents and receive a yellow ticket which entitled him to ride to limits of Acquackanonk township, where he would deliver up the ticket and pay five cents more. A passenger for Nutley upon boarding the stage would pay one cent and receive a green ticket, which would carry him to the Passaic county line. The size of these tickets was one by two inches, reading (the yellow): "Passaic and Newark Electric Traction Co. One (5c) Fare. B. W. Spencer, President." The green ticket read the same, with the exception that the five was one cent. While this question was pending, the road was sold to the Consolidated Traction Company.

As a matter of fact, Passaic and Newark Electric Traction Company constructed the entire road to the Big Tree, excepting that part in Passaic, and also operated it after June 1, 1895, and thereby hangs a tale: Mr. Charles J. Basch, formerly of Basch & Sons, manufacturers of woolen goods at Passaic, while journeying to Passaic January 21, 1897, was ejected from a trolley while passing through Nutley for refusal to pay more than five cent fare from the Big Tree. He immediately sued the Passaic and Newark Electric Railway for \$5,000 in our Supreme Court, but on the trial, before that eminent judge, Jonathan Dixon, and jury, he was non-suited, the Judge deciding that the proper party to be sued was the "traction" and not "Railway" company—a just decision.

In 1898, being unable to secure the consents of a majority of land owners to lay an extra track on Kingsland road, between Passaic and Franklin avenues, lacking only twenty feet, resort was had to Glendale street, where this extra track was laid, still in use.

Believing in the future growth of West Rutherford, Lyndhurst, and neighboring communities, the Passaic and Newark Electric Traction Company in April, 1897, filed with the Secretary of State descriptions of routes of three other lines to be built from Bergen to Passaic, Nutley and Avondale. The first was to begin at intersection of Union and Erie avenues in the borough of Rutherford, thence to run through Union avenue and across the Passaic river to River drive, Passaic, southerly along the drive to Union avenue, and through that avenue to the main line already constructed on Franklin avenue, Passaic. The



second to begin at the intersection of Union and Montrose avenues, in said borough, thence through Montrose, Pierrepont, Stuyvesant to Park avenue, in the township of Union, thence through Riverside avenue to Avondale road, across the Passaic river to Washington avenue, Essex county, thence southerly and across the Paterson and Newark railroad to join the main line of the trolley road, then in operation. Third route, beginning at the intersection of Rutherford and Park avenues, thence through Rutherford avenue and across Passaic river, thence across private lands to River road (near the Waldrich Bleachery), thence northwesterly across the Yanticaw Golf Club field to connect with the main line of the trolley at Glendale street, before mentioned. Nothing further was ever done on either of these three proposed lines. The cost was prohibitive, and at that time there was little demand for the new roads.

From its inception, this road was a money maker, and in 1897 was readily sold to the Consolidated, and in 1903 was acquired and is still owned by the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, which has found it to be the most profitable of its roads.

Coming from Newark, all cars stop before reaching 340 Centre street, Nutley, and have done so since July 6, 1895, when the jar of Car No. 4, coming down the hill, knocked from the ceiling of a room plaster in that house.

In 1915 the road was double tracked, and on the seventh day of July, in that year, the long and narrow (five by twenty feet) station at Passaic street was removed to make room for the extra track.

During the infant days of the trolley, passes were a curse given out in large quantities not only to land owners whose consents were necessary to the construction of the road, but to every politician, public official, officer and every man who had done, or was counted upon to do, a good turn for the trolley. They were issued in book form of a size two by five and one-fourth inches, containing one hundred tickets each. The tickets were one by two inches in size, upon which was printed a fac simile of the company's shuttle car, and "Passaic and Newark" above and "Electric" on the left, and "R'y Co." on the right of the car. Under "Electric" was the number of the ticket, and under "R'y Co." the name of B. W. Spencer, president. Tickets of the same design were used, six of which were sold for twenty-five cents, or twenty-five for one dollar, and became so popular that they were abolished in 1899.

The need of direct communication with Montclair and Bloomfield was apparent many years ago, in order to supply which Eaton N. Frisbie, with others, organized the Bloomfield, Montclair, Caldwell and Passaic Electric Railway, in 1892. The route was through Howe avenue to Van Houten, through that avenue to Bloomfield avenue, and through that avenue and road to and through Allwood and thence to Stone House Plains, to Watchung avenue, Glen Ridge, and through that





avenue to the Valley road, Montclair, where it was to connect with the main line now operating there. But opposition and refusal of land owners to give consents prevented construction and the scheme was abandoned. On June 18, 1898, General Bird W. Spencer, Colonel Charles A. Sterling, of East Orange; William Sheerer, of Orange; Albert B. Carlton, of Elizabeth, and John A. Ely, of Orange, organized the Orange and Passaic Valley Railway Company. The route was over the tracks of the Passaic and Newark line, southerly to South Parkway, thence westerly to Bloomfield road, to continue thence over the route of the above mentioned contemplated railway to the Valley road, Montclair. Hard times and failure to secure consents of land owners led to its abandonment.

For perhaps twenty years from their construction, two of the trolley lines had nicknames by which they were not only known, but which became so popular that the true name was seldom heard and rarely written or printed. The Passaic, Garfield and Clifton railway was known as the Red Line, or Main Line trolley, and the Paterson, Passaic, Rutherford and Carlstadt Electric railway, the White Line or Morrissee road. The cars of the first were red, and those of the second white, which were changed to the present shade of yellow by Public Service. The Passaic and Newark had no nickname, being called simply the Newark trolley.

The fare for one ride within the city, as fixed by ordinance, was five cents, then seven cents, then a zone fare, then back to seven cents, then to eight cents, which it is at the date of this writing, May, 1922, with one cent for transfers.

**BUS LINES**—Passaic has a score of 'bus lines running to Allwood, Great Notch, Garfield, Richfield, Lodi, Passaic Park, North Newark, Clifton, Athenia, Paterson to Crooks avenue, Wallington, Carlstadt, Albion Place, Delawanna, Nutley, Athenia, Robertsford, Plauderville, Dundee Lake, Rutherford, and East Rutherford.

**THE TELEPHONE**—The first battery telephone in Passaic was installed June 10, 1879. The Gold Stock Ticker, a subsidiary of Western Union Telegraph Company on that day began to make use of six battery telephones connecting the Erie ticket office here with four mills and the homes of Bird W. Spencer, treasurer of the Erie, and William J. Holmes, manager of Western Union, Paterson. A private wire led to the mills, while the wires of Western Union were used to New York, Newark and Paterson. To Mr. John F. Noonan, who was an electrician by nature, belongs the credit of conceiving and developing this particular system. He remained in control until December 10, 1879, when he left the employ of the Erie to take charge of installing the telephone system in Paterson, which had been under way since August 1. Paterson has the distinction of being the first city to have the telephone system installed practicably.





While work in Paterson was progressing, Mr. Noonan came to Passaic, and on February 16, 1880, presented a petition to the city council asking permission to place poles along certain streets. In the meantime and before obtaining permission, he began the erection of poles, nearly all being set by the time permission was granted. On September 1, 1880, he began the stringing of wires, upon completing which, October 28th, he began seeking subscribers which was slow and discouraging work. At the end of seven months he had secured only nineteen (Paterson began with six), with which on June 9, 1881, he opened the first Passaic "Central," in a dingy cobbler's shop at the present No. 686 Main avenue. From this infant has grown the giant of today, which from nineteen has expanded to 7,019 subscribers.

Originally the company was the Edison, then the New York and New Jersey, and later the New Jersey was dropped leaving the New York Telephone company. In 1897 a rival appeared when the Paterson, Passaic and Suburban Telephone Company began activities and secured hundreds of subscribers west of the Dundee section, in which, because the company failed to secure a franchise to operate, and in other directions to expand, all attempts were throttled, forced the company to suspend after ten years of push and energy, although its service was quicker and its equipment better than the older company, which was determined to secure monopoly, which it retains to this day, but without abuse or intolerance.



## CHAPTER XLVII.

### COMMISSION GOVERNMENT FROM 1911.

Perhaps in no better way could the spirit of progressiveness, enterprise, push and ginger of Passaic be exemplified than in changing her government (which for forty years had been under the old isolated charter form of a board of councilmen) to that of the modern form of commission government under the Walsh act.

The last municipal charter election was held November 3, 1909, at which Hon. Bird W. Spencer was elected mayor, receiving 2,517 votes against 1,512 for Hamilton M. Ross, Democratic nominee. Shortly after this election, which indicated the popularity of Mr. Spencer, the question of commission government loomed up very suddenly, and immediately received favorable attention, being freely discussed on the streets, in shops, homes and newspapers. The leader in this discussion and the greatest from the standpoint of authority, was Mr. Spencer himself, who might be considered, if not the father, the foster father of the Walsh act, during the passage of which he labored long and hard to explain orally and verbally, in the newspapers, and printed pamphlet, the beneficence of the act, which might have failed to become a law without his influence. The whole scheme was of a form of government unknown in this State previous to 1911, although used to great advantage at Galveston after her tidal wave, where to a certain extent it was experimental, and a person might well question whether Passaic would entertain its adoption as Trenton had, and the only one in the State.

Up to this time the affairs of the city had been managed efficiently and economically, and were being carried on so well as to receive encomiums from newspapers of other cities. Why then change? The answer is clearly shown in the Act's adoption, viz.: To be progressive, and do and expedite public business in the manner that private and quasi-public business is carried on, viz.: according to simplified modern methods. That was all, and, as has always been the rule here from the day that the farmer boys, away back in 1776, destroyed the old bridge to save from capture the immortal Washington, to the present time, the citizens of this old town, in keeping with their way of doing things at once, and without delay, took immediate steps toward adopting the act, thereby being in the van as they were in matters concerning turnpikes, steam railroads, steamboats, telephone, trolley, electric lights and fire apparatus. The adoption was not made hastily, but after months of careful thought and complete understanding of its provisions, all of which had been explained to the voters during the year preceding its adoption, action was taken.

The Walsh act, considered by many of the most advanced thinkers





and students of civic affairs as the best form of municipal government in this country, after passage by the Legislature, was approved by the Governor, April 25, 1911, to take effect July 4, and provided for its adoption by a majority of votes cast at a special election for that purpose held, after the filing of a petition signed by at least twenty per centum of the number of votes cast at the last election. Among its provisions were the following:

That any City of more than ten thousand inhabitants adopting the act should be entitled to five commissioners, each of whom should be a citizen and resident of the city for two years, who should serve until the third Tuesday in May of the fourth year following their election, or until their successors were elected, and every fourth year thereafter, at the regular municipal election: that their nomination should be upon petition, and that at the primary, the number of candidates equal to twice the number of places to be filled, receiving the highest number of votes, should be the only candidates whose names should be placed upon the ballots at the election, when five of this number, receiving the greatest number of votes should be the commissioners. Should any vacancy occur, the remaining members were authorized to fill the same. The new board was to organize on the third Tuesday of May following the election, when the old city council should, *ipso facto*, become abolished together with all officers, thereunder. At this first meeting there was to be one of the board chosen to preside at all meetings, who should be the Mayor, and director of the Department of Public Affairs. Also at this first meeting the commissioners were required to designate by majority vote one of their number to be director, respectively of the: Department of Revenue and Finance; Department of Public Safety; Department of Streets and Public Improvements; Department of Parks and Public Property. Through these departments all business of the city was to be transacted, providing, however, that no ordinance increasing the bonded debt of the city should be valid unless approved by a majority of the votes cast at a special election for that purpose. The Mayor was given the power to veto any ordinance.

Immediately following the filing of the petition therefor, notice was given of an election to be held July 25, 1911, only three months to a day from the passage of the law. The result of this election is shown in the following return: First Ward, for 128, against 283; Second Ward, for 520, against 162; Third Ward, for 535, against 84; Fourth Ward, for 606, against 330; Total, for 1789, against 809; Majority, for 930. The necessary majority was only 437, which, as will be seen, was more than doubled, showing the ease by which the adoption was accomplished.

Following this came the primary to nominate the men whose names were to be presented later to the voters, five of whom receiving the greatest number of votes would compose the first board of commissioners. This primary was held August 23, 1911, at which sixty-two would-be commissioners presented their names soliciting the votes of their friends and neighbors. It was surprising to find names of men who, aside from their own personal friends and shopmates, were not only unknown, but whose names even could not be recalled. Some were newcomers, led into the race because their associates, being good fellows, had been over cordial perhaps in their greetings, and contracted the



habit of patting a man on the shoulder, calling him a "good fellow," which was interpreted to mean "popularity." There were several such would-like-to-be politicians, whose favor with members of the City Council had secured for themselves employment or office in the city's government, which they felt justified and qualified them as a commissioner. Among them all were ordinary clerks in stores and offices, doctors, bricklayers, masons, truckmen, plasterers, janitors, lawyers, saloonkeepers, bottlers, real estate and insurance agents, salesmen, carpenters, commercial travelers, druggists, assessor and tax collector, surveyor, ex-policemen, ink maker, a railroad engineer, undertaker, electricians, justice of peace, constable, foremen, and several who were "retired." There certainly was diversity enough to satisfy the most discriminating voter. The votes fluctuated between thirty-three for a salesman to 1,376 for a truckman. The following shows the ballot for the ten highest men: John H. Kehoe, truckman, 1,376; George N. Seger, retired, 1,289; William A. Reid, assessor, 1,167; Bird W. Spencer, banker, 1,032; A. D. Sullivan, lawyer, 807; J. Hosey Osborn, collector, 802; E. J. Levendusky, surveyor, 735; Colin R. Wise, surveyor, 718; Fred M. Bredin, saloon, 551; John J. Bowes, retired, 481.

According to this, the voters preferred assessors, bankers, lawyers, retired men, and truckmen to manage affairs. Evidently, however, some changed their minds, in that they preferred a tax collector to a banker, as appears by the ballot cast at the election. Out of the ten, the favored and successful five were: John H. Kehoe, George N. Seger, William A. Reid, Adrian D. Sullivan, J. Hosey Osborn. Although Mr. Spencer's election was believed to be assured, judging by his popularity at the preceding primary, to the surprise of many, he lost, but only by a few votes. At noon on September 26, 1911, all officers under the older or charter form of government went out of office, and the old order of government ceased to exist. Mayor Spencer signed his last document ten minutes before twelve. The members of the new board met informally in the mayor's room at 11 o'clock, during which they agreed upon the respective heads of the five departments of the city's government, which were: Public Affairs, Revenue and Finance, Public Safety, Streets and Public Improvements, Park and Public Property. Promptly at noon the Board went to the treasurer's office, and sitting around a long oak table there, formally organized. A basket of flowers standing on the table in front of each commissioner was the only decoration to relieve the sombre appearance of the room, into which ten spectators, including two news reporters, had come out of curiosity, thereby jeopardizing their lunch. The unseemly hour for this rural community, who lunch between 12 and 1 o'clock, no doubt prevented a larger attendance.

Thomas R. Watson, city clerk, who with other officers was holding over, acted as clerk at this meeting, and called for nominations for mayor. Mr. Sullivan nominated Mr. Seger, who was unanimously elect-





ed, as were also the heads of departments, who were as follows: Department of Public Affairs, the Mayor; Revenue and Finance, J. Hosey Osborn; Streets and Public Improvements, William A. Reid; Parks and Public Property, Adrian D. Sullivan; Public Safety, John H. Kehoe. Each of these was officially designated Director.

The new officers appointed were: Treasurer, Harry J. Ketchum; Comptroller, Zabriskie A. Van Houten; Collector, Arthur D. Bolton. The clerk held over until January 1, 1912, when he was re-appointed. Attorney, Albert O. Miller; Civil Engineer, John A. Doolittle; Board of Assessors, the old board; Superintendent of Streets, Edward J. Levensdusky; Physician, Dr. Gerhard J. Van Schott. All but the clerk and physician and members of the Board of Assessors were new men, never having held office under the charter government. All proved capable and efficient.

For the entire term (three and one-half years) of this board, harmony prevailed, and much was accomplished. Among the important measures carried out were: Joining in the building of the trunk sewer; Slank litigation, of which Mr. Osborn was the instigator and aggressor. He made the startling claim that certain lands comprising the greater part of First Ward Park were riparian lands and belonged to the State, although always considered as belonging to individuals, some of whom had erected houses and made other improvements on certain lots for which they had paid a good price. It was the general opinion that Mr. Osborn's claim was preposterous, that he was dreaming, and had "wheels in his head." His claim was ridiculed and laughed at. Nothing daunted, Mr. Osborn was instrumental in instituting legal proceedings, which led to the greatest legal battle that the city had ever been engaged in, lasting for about five years. On the trial of the case the city lost, but on appeal this was reversed. Instead of having a new trial, the city decided to obtain the land by purchase. This was done, and this land converted into a park. On October 29, 1914, the city obtained a grant from the Riparian Board. The last act in this legal drama was performed January 11, 1916, when the city and two owners of land came to an agreement as to the price, which was paid, and deed made to the city.

In 1914 the act was amended in several particulars, among them one providing that nominations should be by separate individual petitions, the total of which should be at least one-half of one per cent. of the entire vote at the last general election. Every man so nominated (and not the ten highest voted for at a primary as in 1911), was entitled to have his name placed on the ticket to be voted at the general election. Preference of candidates must be shown on the ticket by either first, second or third choice by the voter. Such was the law at the date of the election of the second board or, with the exception of Mr. Sullivan, who positively declined a re-election, the second election of the first board.





The election of the Second Board was held May 11, 1915, when there were only thirty-six out of the sixty-four, who had qualified to become candidates. Previous to this election the city had been aroused to the importance of keeping in office the men who had conducted the city's business along business lines, and given satisfaction. The successful candidates and their votes were: John H. Kehoe, 3,380; George N. Seger, 2,500; William A. Reid, 2,267; John H. McGuire, 2,242; J. Hosey Osborn, 1,733. Although Mr. Kehoe at the first election, and now at the second one, had received the highest vote, which entitled him to the office of mayor, he was too modest to accept the proffer, waiving his right in favor of Mr. Seger, who for the second term filled that office, which reflected most favorably at all times during his incumbency, upon the character and reputation of our city. Mr. Seger devoted not only all his attention and time to the affairs of the city while at home, but travelled about to learn of the best methods and things to be adopted in order to insure the best, most efficient and economical government for Passaic, to whom her people are indebted for the advancements made along modern lines.

This second board organized May 18, 1915, and inasmuch as there was a desire to maintain harmony in carrying on the work in the several departments, no change was made in the head of any, while Mr. McGuire, by election of the board, succeeded Mr. Sullivan as Director of Parks, &c. Between 1911 and 1916 the mayor had the power to veto ordinances of which, however, he was shorn by a law passed in 1916, which, instead of being approved by the mayor, provided that all ordinances should be signed by all of the commissioners.

When it came to the election of the Third Board, Mr. Kehoe, who had been a member of the County Board of Taxation, declined a renomination. Aside from his popularity, he had given his whole time to the affairs of the city, which so far as they pertained to the duties of his department, were transacted without any show of display. He possessed uncommonly good judgment, which was shown at critical times, as for instance, during labor strikes and other troubles, which he managed so quietly and so well that people were surprised and could only wonder how he did it alone, unaided and without a fight. His services were of incalculable value to the city. Everybody, it seemed, was sorry to lose him.

The third election was held May 12, 1919, the successful candidates and the number of their respective votes being: William A. Reid, 2,780; John M. McGuire, 2,771; George N. Seger, 2,303; Abram Preiskel, 2,190; Frederick E. Sieper, 2,122. By this it will be seen that only two, Messrs. Seger and Reid, of the first board, remained. Mr. Preiskel was credited with being Mr. Kehoe's successor, and Mr. Sieper crowded out Mr. Osborn, one of the best servants the city had ever known. He had been a councilman of the Third Ward, during which time he fought



the water monopoly almost singlehanded, and while a councilman began the fight to have the slank declared riparian land, and continued that fight as commissioner until he won, and, although he believed that this might cost him his official head by the enemies he made in that litigation (which now seemed verified), he pursued his course of action because he knew he was doing right. His loss was felt by many to be a distinct loss to the city, and there was much dissatisfaction expressed. His friends felt that his defeat was not owing to his enemies, but to the greater popularity of Mr. Sieper, an ex-soldier, which, within three votes, however, was equalled by Mr. Anton L. Pettersen, who contested the election of Sieper without success. This created some excitement, but nothing to be compared to that evoked by the selection of Mr. McGuire to be mayor. Prominent men wrote and spoke against it, believing that Mr. Seger was the man for that office, by reason of his manner, bearing, education and age, and which he had so ably and acceptably filled for two terms. On the other hand, Mr. McGuire's friends felt that not only was he entitled to it by reason of his greater vote, but that in every respect was well qualified to fill it.

Upon the organization of the board, Mr. McGuire was chosen "to preside at all meetings," whereby he became Mayor and Director of Public Affairs, and the following directors were designated by majority vote: Mr. Seger, Revenue and Finance; Mr. Reid, Streets and Improvements; Mr. Preiskel, Public Safety; Mr. Seiper, Parks and Property.

Although Mr. Seger preferred the Department of Parks and asked for it, his request was ignored, and he was actually compelled to take what was forced on him, in consequence of which he would have resigned had not the request of friends prevailed. Judged by the number of votes received, Mr. Reid was the most popular man and, according to an unwritten law of the Board, was the logical candidate for mayor. But here again, as in the case of Mr. Kehoe, modesty prevented, and besides, Mr. Reid was satisfied with being at the head of the department of streets, in which capacity he had served two terms, and was of the opinion that the longer a man served in any department the better qualified he was for that department. During his nearly eight years of service, Mr. Reid not only gave his entire time to the duties of his department, but made a careful study of improvements therein, which would work for efficiency and economy. It was through his efforts that garbage motor trucks replaced horse-drawn wagons, and a garbage incinerator substituted for the ancient, foul-smelling, disease breeding dump. Mr. Reid believed in progress, which he practiced, and yet not in a prodigal manner, realizing that there was a limit to spending, within which he has tried to keep.

There were no changes made by the various Directors in the personnel of the offices in their respective departments. Later Zabriskie A.





Van Houten was appointed city clerk, who succeeded Thomas R. Watson, and at the time of his appointment was comptroller. In both offices, Mr. Van Houten showed marked ability. During the Great War he succeeded in handling the business of his office, which had increased a thousandfold, with remarkable efficiency and dispatch. James H. Woods succeeded Mr. Van Houten as comptroller, to be followed by Arthur J. Bolton, successor to Harry J. Ketcham, treasurer, who resigned April 8, 1921, having filled this office since 1911 most acceptably. This fact alone speaks louder than words for his efficiency and faithful service, than whom none could render better. Mr. Bolton succeeded Mr. Van Houten March 15, 1922 when the latter resigned to accept the office of vice-president of the Passaic National Bank and Trust Company. Mr. Bolton at the time of his appointment of Comptroller was the Collector and in the four offices has shown a capacity that measures up to requirements of his offices. Tony Frylinck, who succeeded Mr. Bolton as Collector, makes an efficient officer.

Colin R. Wise, Engineer. Mr. Wise is an expert in his line, and the city is fortunate in being able to command his services. Albert O. Miller, Jr., Counsel. Arthur Reid, Superintendent of Streets. Peter Gallagher, Weights and Measures. Gerhard J. Van Schott, Physician. James H. Donnelly, Poor Overseer. Alexander Purcell, Almshouse Keeper. John Jellene, Building Inspector. James B. Greeley, Sewer Inspector. Gustav Schmidt, Chief of Police. Arthur D. Bolton, Vital Statistics. Although the editor never made the acquaintance of Mr. Reid, the present superintendent of streets, he is led to believe from what others say that he attends strictly to business and is the most capable and efficient man the city has ever had to fill that position. Complaints, which were common in the past, are seldom or never heard now.

The law fixed the salaries of the Commissioners at \$2,500 for the Mayor, and \$2,000 to each of the others. In the fall of 1919 the question of raising them fifty per cent. was submitted to the voters at an election held November 4th, who voted against it. Five months later the legislature passed a law giving the Commissioners the power to make the increase themselves, and to show their contempt for the proprieties and their lust for the flesh pots, and in total disregard of the wish of the people, whose servants (not masters) they were supposed to be, these Tzars over the people, before the ink had dried on the Governor's signature to this law, introduced by and presented to themselves for passage an ordinance providing for such increase which, in a manner that seems farcical, was rushed through and passed April 27 to take effect eleven days thereafter. Of course, the city arose in its wrath, and proceedings started to oust the Commissioners, which because of a technicality failed of their purpose. This was most unfortunate because when this defect was discovered it was too late to reinstitute proceedings, which otherwise would have been pressed. It may be for this



raising of salaries that the board has lost the confidence of the taxpayers, who will never forget the manner in which their wishes were disregarded, even though the increases may not be excessive—it was the way it was accomplished.

Aside from depressing Passaic avenue where it crossed the Lackawanna railroad, the expense of which was borne partly by the city, and the erection of an incinerator, there have been no public improvements completed within the past few years. The improvement of the Old First Cemetery, by converting it into a site for an armory and park, is now under way. While the city is in need of a new City Hall, locations for which have been hard to find, the finger of destiny points toward this old cemetery, where, in all probability, it will be erected within the near future. A Police Station is being erected on the site of Old No. One School, Passaic street.

The following financial exhibit is upon excellent authority:

The Passaic City government cost \$1,914,408 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1920, or \$29.77 per capita. The per capita cost has been steadily increasing. In 1917 it was \$20.77 and in 1914, \$20.12, the total for these years being \$1,287,017 and \$1,190,531, respectively.

The per capita costs for 1920 consisted of expenses of general departments, \$21.94; payments for interest, \$2.93, and for outlays, \$4.90.

The total revenue receipts in 1920 were \$1,618,103, or \$25.16 per capita. For the fiscal year the per capita excess of governmental costs over revenue receipts was, therefore, \$4.61.

Property taxes constitute the greater part of the revenue of cities. In Passaic they represented 73.2 per cent. for 1920, 64.4 per cent. for 1917, and was 55.7 per cent. from 1914. The increase in the amount of property taxes collected was 55.7 per cent. from 1914 to 1917, and 62.8 per cent. from 1917 to 1920. The per capita property taxes for the three specified years were \$18.42, \$11.74 and \$7.90, respectively.

Business and non-business licenses, which include receipts from liquor licenses, show a marked reduction in relative importance, being, 2.5 per cent. of the total revenue for 1920 as compared with 6.5 per cent. for 1917 and 9.4 per cent. for 1914.

The net indebtedness (funded and floating debt less sinking fund assets) of Passaic was \$50.61 per capita for 1920, \$38.05 for 1917 and \$38.12 for 1914.

In nearly all cities the property subject to the general property taxes varies in the reported basis of assessment, though in most states the law requires that property be assessed at full market value. For this reason the best measure of cost to the property owner is the per capita tax levy. The per capita levies for Passaic for 1920 were: Total, \$30.60; city, \$23.54; state, \$3.39, and county, \$3.67.

**THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS**—The Board of Assessors came into existence under an ordinance of the City Council of May 19, 1891, pursuant to a law passed May 12, 1891, which provided for a board of five members, four of whom should be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Council for two years, more than two of whom should not be of the same political faith, nor more than one come from any ward. The fifth man was to be elected to serve three years. The first appointments were to be: Two for one year, and two for two years. The terms of one





member of each political party were to expire at the same time.

The first members of this Board were: Thomas McMahon, First Ward; William Malcolm, Second Ward; James T. Boyle, Third Ward; and Francis C. Cogan, Fourth Ward. Giles S. Orcutt was the member-at-large. In 1899 William H. Speer succeeded Mr. Malcolm, who resigned to become treasurer of the city, and Aaron Witte succeeded Mr. Cogan, also resigned. Mr. Orcutt remained in the Board until 1909. McMahon, Malcolm, Orcutt and Witte have died. At the present time the Board is under control of Director of Finance, who makes all appointments irrespective of ward lines, there being no one of the members elected. The members now are: J. Hosey Osborn, John Woods, Secretary, Louis Lipchitz, Edward N. Kevitt, James T. Boyle.

**PASSAIC'S TAX RATE FOR LAST FIFTY YEARS**—In the last fifty years has fluctuated between \$1.32, which was the rate in 1875, and \$3.40, last year's rate. William W. Scott has original tax bills in his possession for the forty-nine years since 1873, and these, together with this year's rate of \$3.276, show the grand average tax rate for the last half century to be \$2.3861.

Starting with \$1.70 in 1873 the tax rate went down and up until it hit \$2.07 in 1877. Then it fluctuated for twenty years and in 1897 reached an even \$3.00. In 1906 it dropped to \$1.66 and then for a period of five years hovered between \$1.41 and \$1.49 and then climbed again until it reached \$2.03 in 1915. The following year it dropped ten points, in 1917 went back to \$2.10, in 1918 dropped to \$1.92, the following year leaped 60 points, then 65 in 1920, and another 23 last year, when it reached the peak of Passaic tax rates—\$3.40. This year's rate is \$3.276. The rates for the last fifty years and the average rates for each of the five decades follows:

1st Decade	2nd Decade	3rd Decade	4th Decade	5th Decade
1873..\$1.70	1883..\$2.77	1893..\$2.92	1903..\$2.74	1913..\$1.62
1874.. 1.60	1884.. 2.70	1894.. 2.92	1904.. 2.88	1914.. 1.71
1875.. 1.32	1885.. 2.90	1895.. 2.98	1905.. 2.82	1915.. 2.03
1876.. 1.83	1886.. 2.74	1896.. 2.92	1906.. 1.66	1916.. 1.93
1877.. 2.07	1887.. 2.90	1897.. 3.00	1907.. 1.41	1917.. 2.10
1878.. 2.17	1888.. 2.80	1898.. 2.78	1908.. 1.46	1918.. 1.92
1879.. 2.23	1889.. 2.90	1899.. 2.98	1909.. 1.48	1919.. 2.52
1880.. 2.11	1890.. 2.74	1900.. 2.90	1910.. 1.44	1920.. 3.17
1881.. 2.20	1891.. 2.84	1901.. 2.94	1911.. 1.49	1921.. 3.40
1882.. 2.19	1892.. 2.80	1902.. 2.80	1912.. 1.54	1922.. 3.276
Avg..\$1.948	....\$2.809	....\$2.914	....\$1.892	....\$2.3861

**THE BOARD OF HEALTH**—The Board of Health has charge of all matters affecting public health, supervising all plumbing in old and new buildings of every kind within the city; all water and sewerage connections; all garbage, either on deposit or collected; the sale and consumption of articles of food for man and beast; abating all nuisances, and





exercising control over all communicable and contagious diseases.

This board was created in 1884 and is still active. It is because of strict enforcement of the law under the lynx-eyes of its officers that Passaic can boast of being the cleanest (from a sanitary point) and the healthiest city in the State. Its present officers are: Dr. John N. Ryan, health officer; Dr. Leo H. Joyce, chief medical inspector of schools; Dr. J. Payne Lower, veterinarian; Joseph Whalley, plumbing sanitary inspector (mechanical inspection is made by the building inspector); Myra Dumont, district nurse; Jacob Cooper, special officer; Hospital staff—Mary F. Bradley, supervising nurse; Katherine Shea, nurse. The present members of the Board, appointed by the mayor, who is ex-officio member thereof, are: The mayor, Dr. Henry C. Reynolds, Dr. Joseph F. A. Rubacky, John Kennell and Ernest Schact. The meetings of the Board are held on the third Thursday of every month.

Under an ordinance establishing a registry of vital statistics, approved April 14, 1875, there was created the office of Registrar of Vital Statistics, who have been: James A. Sproull, James A. Norton, Walter Bowker, Fred A. Parker, George F. Grear, who served from 1899 to 1911, when the office was combined with that of the city clerk, where it remains.

Superintendent of Sewers—Colin R. Wise, from introduction to 1906; Anton L. Pettersen, 1906-1908, when for three years, according to the city's records, there appears to have been none; James B. Greeley, 1911. In 1901 there was created the office of inspector of sewers, which was held by John Veech from 1901-1911. Both officers are now under control of the Department of Streets and Public Improvements.

Superintendent of Fire Alarm—Charles R. Newman, 1895-1907; Charles A. Rutledge, 1907-1908; Reginald B. Anderson, 1908-1911; Walter S. Gibson, 1911 to present time.

Superintendent of Electrical Bureau, which bureau was created in 1914: Walter S. Gibson, 1914 to present time.

Board of Assessors—At-large, Giles S. Orcutt, to 1901; Irving C. Matthews, 1901-1907; William A. Reid, 1907-1911. First Ward: Thomas McMahon, to 1911; Louis Lipschitz, 1911-1922. Second Ward: William H. Speer, to 1901; Giles S. Orcutt, 1901-1909; John Woods, 1909-1911, when he became clerk. Third Ward: James T. Boyle, to 1904, 1907; William T. Magee, 1904-1907. Fourth Ward: Aaron Witte to his death, succeeded by Edward N. Kevitt. Mr. Witte was very capable and very popular with all classes albeit very quiet and unassuming in his work.

SEWERS—Passaic has what is considered the very best sewerage system in the world, locally known as the Waring System, having been planned by George E. Waring, Jr., a prominent and leading sanitary engineer (who has since died), although not original with him, but



which originated with Edwin Chadwick, an eminent sanitarian in 1844.

So far back as 1883, the subject of sewerage the city was brought to the front, which led to the employment of Mr. Waring, who made a survey of the city, after completing which he on March 25, 1884, made his report recommending the adoption of the small pipe separate system consisting of two lines of pipe, one for sewage and the other for rain water, in contradistinction to the old-fashioned "combined" system, in and through which both rain or surface water and sewage are mingled and carried together. One great advantage of the separate system is that the sewage pipes are automatically flushed regularly every twenty-four hours with pure hydrant water. His recommendation was adopted and work commenced in 1887, and carried through to completion. It has given entire satisfaction ever since. All outlets were into the tail race canal, or Passaic river, and may be connected with the trunk sewer when that is ready for use.

In 1890 the city constructed a purely storm water sewer six feet in diameter through Main avenue from Jefferson street to Park place, at a cost of about \$10,000. This was independent of the Waring system, which was not planned to take care of the great volume of water there. This connected with a storm water sewer which had previously been laid in Park place.

**TRUNK SEWER**—The agitation to prevent the pollution of the Passaic river, which was the receptacle into which Paterson's sewers emptied and the mills there and here dumped their filth, began twenty-five years ago, to prevent which, as was believed they would, laws were passed penalizing all persons guilty of the act. Under these acts there were convictions; but the pollution continued. In time, however, the filthy condition of the river gave forth such foul odors as to compel attention of the public authorities of all cities along the river from Paterson to Newark, which led to a discussion of the best method of disposal of sewage. It was the opinion of many that a disposal plant was the best and Passaic, for a while, proceeded on that theory. In 1901 the city employed an engineer to investigate the question of a local disposal plant and to report on its probable cost. Much time and care were given the subject, not only by the engineer, but by the committee on sewers, which visited plants in operation elsewhere. Upon the completion of this work the engineer reported that it would cost Passaic for a disposal plant \$990,330, and the annual costs of operating, including interest, depreciation and renewals, \$90,457. This plant would be able to dispose at the utmost of only fifteen million gallons of sewage daily, and did not make provision for anything in excess of that. This fortunately did not meet popular approval. The cost was so high as to be prohibitive, and the matter at least for the time was laid aside in the hope of discovering a just-as-good but cheaper plan. Whether this was brought about by the foresight of some of Passaic's civic prophets





or the dread of expense, it was a master stroke whereby Passaic was spared the loss of what might have been put into this plant only to be abandoned for the system finally adopted.

For some time the matter of sewage disposal, so far as the same affected the river, was discussed by public officials and people in private life, while the newspapers did their best to help solve the problem as to which was the best plan. From this there was evolved the trunk sewer, to facilitate the construction of which the legislature passed an act in 1907 creating the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners to take charge of the construction of the big drain, which, as finally agreed upon, extends from Paterson to Robbins Reef, New York Bay, a distance of about twenty-six miles. Connected with this, which is the main line, are: Bloomfield, East Orange, Glen Ridge, Garfield, East Rutherford, Montclair, Nutley, Orange, Wallington and other municipalities, by lateral drains. The law provides that the cost should be paid for by the various municipalities connecting their sewerage with the trunk line, each paying in proportion to the number of gallons estimated to be drained into it, figured on a basis of percentage.

When Paterson was informed that her share of the entire cost would be sixteen and one-half per cent. her opposition to the plan, which all along had been strong, now became not only bitter but vindictive and scornful, and soon found it becoming in her to ridicule the whole scheme, and was more determined than ever to have a separate disposal plant of her own filthy self. She was vehemently and utterly opposed to the trunk sewer, and was so blind as not to see that it was better by far than her separate plant system for which she was so committed (in theory). This was her attitude for over four years, but after careful investigations of disposal plants in this country and Europe, after the employment of the best engineering talent in the United States, and after a study of all conditions by a joint committee composed of members of her Board of Aldermen and members of her Taxpayers' Association, and at the expense of thousands of dollars, she was forced to the conclusion, and admitted, that the trunk sewer was by far the cheapest and best of all plans. While Paterson was thus engaged (she did not come in until 1912), Newark and Passaic, having seen the superiority of the trunk sewer, went ahead with their plans for joining the project. Under the original act, municipalities affected were restricted in the amount of bonds which might be issued for the sewer to five per cent. of the ratables. In March, 1910 (which was before the date when Passaic officially entered into contract with the Sewer Commissioners), this was reduced to two and one-half per cent., but in 1916, when it was evident that the boasted liberal estimates were one hundred per cent. too low, the limit was again raised to five per cent., where it remains.

Passaic's ratables in 1907 were \$29,194,000, which at two and one-half per cent. would limit her expense to \$729,850. But in the opinion



of her expert engineer, the cost to Passaic (as estimated by him) would be fifteen cents more than \$599,033, for the daily disposal of not to exceed 29,194,000 gallons of sewage. The original estimates, however, were little more than guesses, and could not have been otherwise because of greater costs than anticipated and the coming in of other municipalities under the law of 1915, in disposing of 29,194,000 gallons of sewage daily. The Mayor and Council were guided by public demand, which, as expressed in a resolution of our Board of Trade of October 13, 1910, called upon them to take immediate steps to co-operate with the Commissioners. The Council acted at once, but the mayor delayed signing the contract for several reasons, among them his opposition to the entire plan and cost which, however, could not prevail against public opinion that forced him to sign. Like Paterson, he stood out for a separate plant.

Passaic has the distinction of being the place where the first actual construction work of the trunk sewer was begun, and this was at the intersection of the center lines of Hope avenue and Sherman street, on Friday, July 12, 1912. This was section 15, extending from that point northerly to Crooks avenue, covering about two and one-half miles, to complete which would take about one year, but which took more than twice that time because the contractors abandoned the work when quicksand more than doubled their estimated costs. This delayed the work for a year. The original act contemplated its completion by December 12, 1910, but permitted pollution for two years thereafter. In 1911 this time was extended to December 31, 1914, and subsequently extended to December 31, 1916; December 31, 1917; December 31, 1918. By this time it was evident that the cost would be double the estimates, \$11,250,000 to provide for which an act was passed in 1918 authorizing the municipalities concerned to issue bonds up to five per cent. of their last ratables. Another contractor of the last or tail section having abandoned the work, and the difficulty of securing a contractor willing to contract for the hazardous undertaking, led to longer delay, and the time for the completion was extended to December 31, 1920, since when it has been extended to December 31, 1924. It is the general opinion that not before 1925 will Passaic be able to make use of the sewer, which will have cost her \$1,206,009. But it will be worth it.

At the time this is written (January, 1922), the Board of Commissioners adopted a fourth supplemental contract for an additional appropriation of \$2,250,000 for the completion of the Passaic Valley sewer. The additional appropriation was recommended by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission in a report which was received by the Board of Commissioners. If other cities adopt the resolution for the supplementary contract, it will bring the total cost of the sewer to \$20,250,000. Passaic's total pro rata share of this cost is estimated at \$1,205,536.66, including the interest on payment of \$262.05, the total is \$1,205,799.71. On this credits for \$302,974.56





have been allowed and the city has paid \$803,691.75, leaving a balance to be paid of \$99,133.40. Aside from the amount that thus becomes due on this additional contract, Passaic had fully paid for its share of the cost to date.

The report from the commission points out that the additional money is estimated to be necessary to complete the outfall at Robbins Reef, as reported by the joint engineering bureau. The report further declares that in view of the favorable decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court last May, the litigation opposing the completion of the work at Robbins Reef has been removed. According to the figures presented, the additional cost in the neighboring communities of Clifton, Garfield, Rutherford and East Rutherford is as follows:

Clifton—Total, \$243,441.71; credits allowed, \$60,930.22; paid, \$161,627.82; due, \$19,883.67. Garfield—Total, \$84,858.70; credits, \$21,326.61; paid, \$56,572.49; due, \$6,659.60. Wallington—Total, \$26,124.77; credits, \$6,565.65; paid, \$19,996.73; refund due, \$437.61. East Rutherford—Total, \$17,434.01; credits, \$4,381.50; paid, \$11,622.62; due, \$1,429.89. Rutherford—Total, \$74,968.64; credits, \$18,841.04; paid, \$57,383.42; refund due, \$1,255.82.

**GARBAGE DISPOSAL**—From 1880 to 1921, garbage of all kinds, including ashes and many things in zymotic condition, was carted to and dumped upon and in convenient swamps, low places and holes in the ground. The stuff was not separated nor sifted, but ashes and kitchen refuse were indiscriminately gathered to make up a load. The biggest "dump" was the site of the present First Ward Park, which was used for thirty years, or until the land was developed into a park, built upon this garbage. Other dumps were: Oak street, about 1,000 feet west of Tulip street; Paulison avenue, near Oak street; Linden street, Randolph street, Jefferson street Fourth Ward Park and numerous other places, so many in fact that the city was honey-combed with them, whose foul odors not only permeated the city, but were dangerous to health. This necessarily led to the installation of a garbage incinerator in 1921, at a cost of \$183,100, consisting of a cement building equipped with the latest devices for consuming garbage of all kinds—liquids and solids. It is located in what were known as the Paulison quarries, a ledge of rock, which for many years previous to 1900, furnished the finest of sand stone for building purposes. The location is on Paulison avenue near the westerly limits of the city, near the Isolation Hospital.

Ashes and other noncombustible refuse are collected separately from the combustible garbage and used for roads and filling-in purposes.

It is unfortunate, perhaps, to have located the incinerator right in the midst of a thickly settled section of the city, the inhabitants of which have already complained of the odors, soot and smoke issuing from the plant, spreading over the land and drifting into houses. Unless this is remedied it may become necessary to remove the incinerator one mile toward the southerly limits of the city where it could be operated without annoyance to so many people and where it should have been located.





The incinerator has been in operation for some months and is doing its work well. There are seven men employed in running the plant. There is also a watchman whose services will be dispensed with when certain changes contemplated are carried out. In the collection of garbage and ashes about twenty-six men are employed. The city owns one motor truck and six trailers used in the collection of garbage, etc., and has just purchased one more motor truck and three trailers. We collect and incinerate about 15,000 tons of garbage annually. The cost is about \$1.25 per ton. This cost will be considerably lowered when the men become expert in the operation of the plant and when changes in the operating force, etc., are made. The plant has two furnaces, each of a capacity of forty-two and one-half tons per twenty-four hours. No coal is used except on Monday mornings to start the fires. Probably twenty-five tons per year will be so used. There are wooden boxes, and other woody matter, sufficient to supply all the requirements.

**CITY ZONING COMMISSION**—Like many of the older cities, not only in this but in other States, no attention was paid to the protection of property, so that, as often happened, a stable, laundry, rag-picker's shop, or what-not, were erected along side of another person's handsome residence, the view from the front of which, set back at some distance from the street line, would be obscured by the building of the other fellow, built right up to the street line. No regard was paid either to the kind or appearance of the building or the propriety of their erection in certain neighborhoods requiring restrictions. To correct what was looked upon as a growing evil, a zoning and planning board has been created under an ordinance of the City Commissioners whereby this board is given the power to refuse permits for building, if the same fails to meet requirements of the board. It promises well, and no doubt will be of great benefit, not only to the city at large, but to individual owners of real estate in the city.

**THE PARK SYSTEM**—The fact that Passaic during the greater part of its history had but a small population, and that its remarkable growth has been realized within a comparatively brief period, worked to the disadvantage of the city in at least one respect. As a small village, and a not much larger city, the people felt no need for public parks. As a result, every effort on the part of the more far-seeing citizens was opposed strenuously by those who were unable to persuade themselves that Passaic was destined to enjoy a future in which it would become absolutely necessary that it should develop a park system. Indeed, it is only within recent years that the agitation for the establishment of parks became to any degree popular.

The fact that the great majority of taxpayers of Passaic were unwilling to expend the money necessary to purchase the park lands at a time when much available property could be had at very reasonable



prices had made it impossible for the city government to lay out as adequate a system as might once have been possible, yet, considering the difficulties that had to be met, there can be no doubt that the park properties that have now been acquired will go far toward correcting the mistakes that were made in not purchasing land for this purpose when there was a wider range of choice.

Passaic avenue, originally laid out in 1863, extended only from Grove terrace to Paulison avenue. In 1869 it was continued northeasterly to Prospect street. The result was that the small triangular piece of land at the junction of the three highways was left. Thinking that it might be made an attractive spot, the village officials arranged with the late Dr. John M. Howe to take possession of this piece of property in lieu of his assessment for the opening of the new street. In 1888, this "park" was graded and sodded; later a fountain was erected in the center of the tract by Councilman Lucas, and called his park. In 1919, Mr. Robert D. Benson erected a fountain thereon in memory of his son, Robert G., who was killed in the Great War, October 27, 1918.

Although this little triangle was too small for a park, there was even a smaller one that was well patronized. This was Cogan's Park, located among a clump of trees standing on the east side of Main avenue from Passaic street to Academy street. It was so conveniently located as to become popular, particularly for frequenters of saloons who in the small hours of the morning went there for pleasant dreams upon benches which Councilman Cogan had been instrumental in having placed there. The construction of the trolley compelled its obliteration. Facetious reference to this embryo park led to serious discussion of the acquisition of the real article.

The failure of C. M. K. Paulison during the panic of 1873 put an end to his plans to build one of the handsomest residences in New Jersey, and the property which he had laid out for that purpose remained unoccupied until 1890, when it was purchased for \$23,400, of which \$13,400 was paid by the city, the remaining \$10,000 being raised by private subscriptions. At that time little thought was given to the need for a park in the Hill section, but, as the land was there and would add greatly to the attractiveness of the new City Hall, if it were properly kept up, it was not long before Passaic possessed a park of which it might justly be proud. What had been the barn lot connected with Paulison's castle, was subsequently purchased for \$10,000 and added to City Hall Park.

Soon after this, it was suggested that the city acquire at once for park purposes the tract of land at Passaic Park, in order to prevent the establishment thereon of a coal and lumber yard, which was being attempted. No sooner suggested than acted upon. The residents of that section of the city, who always evinced great civic pride in things beautiful, raised in 1893 the sum of \$2,200 as their contribution toward





the purchase of the land, which the city then acquired for \$11,500, including this \$2,200. No better evidence was ever seen of the foresight of people acted upon than in this beautifully improved block of land.

This park was improved so well that those who resided in other sections, such as Dundee, wanted a park. The need of one to the people of that vicinity was so apparent that Harry Meyers, in the early part of 1899, offered to sell the city something more than eighteen acres for park purposes, for about \$85,000, and agreed to take his pay in three per cent. city bonds. The tract of land embraced in this offer lay between Vreeland pond and Hamilton avenue, Parker avenue and Sherman street.

As subsequent events prove, Mr. Meyers' proposition should have been accepted, and future generations in Passaic will never cease to regret that the beautiful pond and the adjoining property were permitted to pass into private hands. At the time the offer was made, however, it was most energetically opposed by the public and *Daily News* most violently; so energetically, indeed, that Dr. Charles M. Howe ran for mayor on a "No Park" platform and was elected by a large majority.

This was the last attempt made to purchase property for park purposes until 1906, when a special committee was appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the growing needs for parks, and to recommend a system of parks which would, so far as possible, meet these demands. In the meantime, May, 1900, the city had been presented with the triangular piece of land lying between Ayerigg avenue, Erie street and the Erie railroad tracks. This was the gift of the heirs of John B. Ayerigg and is now the site of the Washington Monument, and called Washington park.

The committee representing the Board of Trade began its work immediately, but no definite result was obtained, outside of a very general discussion of the question, until Robert D. Benson, then chairman of the committee, became a member of the City Council in January, 1908. Through his efforts a resolution was passed authorizing the employment of an expert to study the needs of the city and to suggest an appropriate park system. A. M. Reynolds, Jr., superintendent of the Essex County System of Parks, undertook the investigation, but his report called for such an extensive area, including a great deal of already developed property, both houses and streets, that the Council felt that the city could not afford to carry out such an elaborate plan. As a result, Mr. Reynolds prepared a second report which was presented in April, 1909, and which was adopted by the Council, the necessary ordinances being passed to acquire the property recommended. The areas included in this recommendation represented 148 acres, with an assessed valuation of \$288,000.

In August, 1909, the raising of a question regarding commissions



paid real estate agents on the sale of the property to the city, put a temporary stop to the purchase of land and a special committee was appointed by the council to investigate the entire subject of parks. As an effect of their report, there was a marked reduction in the park area, and later actions on the part of the council cut it down still further to 80.67 acres (which were acquired by purchase or condemnation) instead of the 148 acres decided upon in 1909. The reduction in area was secured by eliminating some of the land originally set apart to be included in the Third Ward Park, and by omitting entirely the tract between the Erie railroad and the river road now used as a baseball field.

The Second Ward Park was acquired by the city in April, 1909, and supplies a long-felt want. This and the First Ward Park are about complete in modern appliances and improvements, furnishing everything in the way of conveniences for comfort and enjoyment of those who visit them, young and old.

The Third Ward improvements so far pertain to the laying out of a short driveway and several paths, to be followed by the erection of buildings like those in the first and second wards.

In April, 1909, the city also acquired what is known as the Fourth Ward Park, just outside the city's limits, between Lexington and Central avenues.

After four years of litigation the city secured the First Ward Park of twenty-five and one-half acres, which, with improvements, cost \$168,268. While the land was the least desirable from its appearance, the most of it being a garbage dump and part of it a stagnant pool known as the "Slank," the magic wand of money has converted it into a spot of beauty which will be a joy forever, as there is no place in the city where a park is needed more than in this congested district.

If Passaic had not been surrounded by beautiful fields, which answered for parks, and had not the river in its days of purity offered a field for aquatic sports, perhaps there would have been more parks secured.

Original cost of Park lands: First Ward Park, \$111,354; Second Ward Park, \$65,200; Third Ward Park, \$155,625; Fourth Ward Park, \$27,305; City Hall Park, \$43,000; Washington Park (Main avenue, railroad and Ayerigg avenue), \$12,000; Passaic River Park, (foot of Westervelt place), \$2,150; Old First Cemetery, \$112,531; total, \$529,165. The total acreage is 108.63, which allows only one and three-fourths acres for each one thousand population when double this amount is the lowest in other cities. In addition Passaic needs many more acres of land for athletics and sport, and right now should have three hundred and fifty acres of parks.

DISTRICT COURT—In conformity with the spirit of progress characteristic of Passaic, and to do away with the disrepute of the old Justices Courts, which had lost the confidence of the community, a District Court





was established, by an ordinance of the city, passed July 6, 1896, the first session of which was held September 3, 1896, presided over by William W. Watson, who had been appointed as judge in August, 1896. Business was continued until July 28, 1898, when the same ceased temporarily because the justices instituted an action in the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the District Court act supplement, passed March 26, 1896, claiming that because of the clause therein limiting its operation to the cities which should adopt it within one year after its passage, rendered the act special, and therefore, unconstitutional. While this case was pending, no session of the District Court was held. On February 26, 1900, the Supreme Court rendered its decision, declaring the act unconstitutional and the ordinance invalid, which was set aside.

Before the institution of this action, and on June 14, 1898, the original act and supplement were repealed and a new act passed, providing that all District Courts then constituted and established should continue in existence. In order to save any question Judge Watson was re-appointed, and sessions of the court were resumed April 27, 1900, and have been continued ever since.

Judge Watson served most acceptably until April 26, 1911, when he was succeeded by Walter C. Cabell, Esq., who, probably because he was not a native of the city as Judge Watson was, did not succeed in making the court so popular as the latter did. In fact, so great was the aversion to Judge Cabell that numbers of lawyers took their cases to the Paterson District Court, resulting in great loss to the city. The court did not pay, and the little business transacted did not seem to justify the large salaries paid to its officers. All this is changed now.

The first court room was in the *Daily News* building; the second in the Speer building on the site of the present Berdan building, corner Washington place and Main avenue; the third in the Municipal building, whence it was removed, on April 25, 1921, to the O'Leary building on Prospect street, where it, at this writing, remains.

The first clerk was Silas A. Clarke, and the second Thomas M. Bustard, who died, leaving a vacancy which still continues. Of Sergeant-at-Arms there have been three: Samuel Weinberger, Hubert Groendyke and the present one, Dominic De Muro.

The court has never been self-supporting, and the salaries should be greatly reduced. A few figures as to the cost during the past few years are given: From 1906 up to December 1, 1920, the total cost in salaries and expenses was \$59,469.96. The total revenue was \$31,869.77. This is a loss of \$27,600.19. The highest revenue ever received for one year during this period was \$2,998.73. The salaries at that time totalled \$3,750; they now total approximately \$6,000. From 1906 to 1915 the salaries totaled \$3,750 per year. In 1916 they rose to \$4,187.57; in 1917,





\$4,644; in 1918, \$4,944; in 1919, \$4,944; and for eleven months of 1920, \$5,528.39.

Judge Cabell was reappointed April, 1916, and again in April 4, 1921 for five years, much to the disappointment of the lawyers of the city, of whom approximately seventy-five per cent. were opposed to his appointment, and who were ignored by the Governor because Mr. Cabell had the indorsement of Woodrow Wilson, ex-Governor, who first appointed him. At the present time the Judge seems to be growing in favor of the lawyers, and it is the opinion of the editor that he makes a good judge and metes out justice in equity and good conscience, and his court is popular.

#### CITY OFFICERS—City Officers, continued from the News History of 1899:

1898—Mayor, Andrew McLean; President of City Council, John J. Slater; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Richard B. Tindall; City Treasurer, William Malcolm. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, John J. Welsh; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Jacob J. Van Noordt; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber, Superintendent of Streets, Thomas Giblin; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, Walter Kip; City Physician, Dr. A. Ward Van Riper; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Daniel Fogarty; Registrar Vital Statistics, Fred A. Parker; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Captain of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise. District Court—Judge, Wm. W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clarke; Sergeant-at-Arms, Samuel Weinberger; Janitor, Eli Knowlden. Board of Assessors—At-Large, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thos. McMahon; Second Ward, Wm. H. Speer; Third Ward, Jas. T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; Clerk, Thos. McMahon. Board of Health—President, Dr. A. Ward Van Riper; Secretary, Albert H. Smith; First Ward, Patrick Delaney; Second Ward, C. E. Denholm; Third Ward, Albert H. Smith; Fourth Ward, Fred R. Lowe; At-Large, Dr. A. Ward Van Riper; At-Large, John Radcliffe; Health Inspector, Dr. G. J. Van Schott; Plumbing Inspector, Wm. B. Davidson; Treasurer, Chas. E. Denholm; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe; Sanitary Officer, Martin J. Flynn. Board of Education—President, Louis B. Carr; Secretary, Andrew Foulds; First Ward, Ernest Remig, Wm. R. Ryan, C. P. Strayer; Second Ward, John T. Van Riper, Andrew Foulds, DeWit C. Cowdrey; Third Ward, Wm. W. Pratt, Louis B. Carr, Wm. T. McGee; Fourth Ward, George B. Wilson, Sylvester J. Post; Fourth Ward, John De Keyser; City Superintendent, H. H. Hutton, Ph. D. City Board of Examiners, Albert O. Miller, Jr., Rev. W. I. Sweet, H. H. Hutton, Ph. D. City Council—President-at-Large, John J. Slater; First Ward, John J. Welsh, Owen J. Purcell, John J. Hogan; Second Ward, Robert H. Offord, Hamilton K. Beatty, Watson A. Bogart; Third Ward, Cornelius Kevitt, John A. Parker, Ed. W. Gardner; Fourth Ward, Wm. H. Hornbeck, John Hamilton, Aaron Kevitt. Trustees Free Public Library—John A. Willett, R. D. Benson, Irving Angell, W. C. Kimball, Dr. Geo. R. Rundle. Building Inspector—Patrick McMahon.

1899—Mayor, Chas. M. Howe; President City Council, Ed. W. Gardner; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Richard B. Tindall; City Treasurer, Wm. Malcolm. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Jacob J. Van Noordt; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber. Superintendent of Streets, Thos. Giblin; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, A. Ward Van Riper; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Daniel Fogarty; Registrar Vital Statistics, Geo. F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Chas. R. Newman; Captain of Police, Wm. Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clarke; Sergeant-at-Arms, Samuel Weinberger; Janitor, Eli Knowlden. Board of Assessors—At-Large, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Wm. H. Speer; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte. Board of Health—At-Large, Dr. D. R. Crounse; At-Large, W. F. Gaston; First Ward, Patrick Delaney; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Gilbert D. Bogart; Fourth Ward, F. R. Low. Board of Education—First Ward, J. J. Lannon, J. J. Mara, Ernest Remig; Second Ward, Andrew Foulds, Wm. L. Hammond, J. T. Van Riper; Third Ward, L. B. Carr, Wm. T. Magee, W. W. Pratt; Fourth Ward, G. H. Dalrymple, Carl Pfeil, G. B. Wilson. Councilmen—At-Large, President, Edward W. Gardner; First Ward, John J. Welsh, Carl H. A. Rice, John King; Second Ward, Thos. R.



Watson, John H. Doremus, Robt. M. Offord; Third Ward, Matthew Geene, David Greenlie, John A. Parker; Fourth Ward, H. F. Schlieh, John O'Leary, Wm. H. Hornbeck. Trustees Free Public Library—At-Large, John A. Willett; At-Large, Irving Angell; At-Large, R. D. Benson; At-Large, Wm. C. Kimball; At-Large, G. W. Blanchard; Building Inspector—Patrick McMahon.

1900—Mayor, Chas. M. Howe; President City Council, Edward W. Gardner; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Richard B. Tindall; City Treasurer, William Malcolm. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, John J. Welsh; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Jacob J. Van Noordt; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber. Superintendent of Streets, Thomas Gibbin; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. A. Ward Van Riper; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Daniel Fogarty; Registrar Vital Statistics, Geo. F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Chas. R. Newman; Captain of Police, Wm. Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clarke; Sergeant-at-Arms, Samuel Weinberger; Janitor, Eli Knowlden. Board of Assessors—President, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Wm. H. Speer; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, Fred R. Low; Secretary, G. D. Bogart; First Ward, Patrick Delaney; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, G. D. Bogart; Fourth Ward, Fred R. Low; At-Large, Wm. F. Gaston; At-Large, Dr. D. R. Crounse. Health Inspector, Albert H. Smith; Inspector of Plumbing, Wm. Davidson; Treasurer, Wm. F. Gaston; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe. Board of Education—President, Louis B. Carr; Secretary, Andrew Foulds; First Ward, Ernest Remig, J. J. Mara, J. J. Lannon; Second Ward, John T. Van Riper, Andrew Foulds, Wm. L. Hammond; Third Ward, Wm. W. Pratt, Louis B. Carr, Wm. T. Magee; Fourth Ward, Geo. B. Wilson, Carl Pfeil, Geo. H. Dalrymple. City Superintendent, F. E. Spaulding. City Board of Examiners—A. O. Miller, Jr., John E. Aekerman, F. E. Spaulding. City Council—President, Ed. W. Gardner; First Ward, John J. Welsh, John King, Carl H. A. Rice; Second Ward, Robt. M. Offord, John H. Doremus, Thos. R. Watson; Third Ward, John A. Parker, David Greenlie, Matthew Geene; Fourth Ward, Wm. H. Hornbeck, John O'Leary, Harry Schlieh. Trustees Free Public Library—John A. Willett, Irving Angell, R. D. Benson, W. C. Kimball, Geo. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commission—Geo. P. Rust, W. S. Benson, J. E. Aekerman.

1901—Mayor Charles M. Howe; President City Council, Frederiek C. Streckfuss; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Richard B. Tindall; City Treasurer, William Malcolm. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Jacob J. Van Noordt; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber. Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. A. Ward Van Riper; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Daniel Fogarty; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Captain of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clarke; Sergeant-at-Arms, H. Gronendyke; Janitor, Eli Knowlden. Board of Assessors—President-at-Large, Irving C. Matthews; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Orcutt; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, John J. Slater; Secretary, G. D. Bogart; First Ward, Patrick Delaney; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, G. D. Bogart; Fourth Ward, Charles L. White; At-Large, William F. Gaston; At-Large, Dr. D. R. Crounse; Health Inspector, Albert H. Smith; Plumbing Inspector, William Davidson; Treasurer, William F. Gaston; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe. Board of Education—President, William T. Magee; Secretary, Joseph J. Mara; First Ward, J. J. Mara, J. J. Lannon, Dr. John Ryan; Second Ward, Andrew Foulds, William L. Hammond, Dr. George F. Welsh; Third Ward, Louis B. Carr, William T. Magee, F. A. Barnes; Fourth Ward, George B. Wilson, Carl Pfeil, George H. Dalrymple; City Superintendent, F. E. Spaulding; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., John E. Aekerman, F. E. Spaulding. City Council—President-at-Large, Frederick C. Streckfuss; First Ward, John J. Welsh, John J. Radcliffe; Second Ward, John H. Doremus, Thomas R. Watson, Marinus J. Coman; Third Ward, David Greenlie, Matthew Geene, Thomas Foxhall; Fourth Ward, John O'Leary, Harry Schlieh, Fred R. Low. Trustees Free Public Library—John A. Willett, Irving Angell, R. D. Benson, W. C. Kimball, George W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commissioners—George P. Rust, W. S. Benson, J. E. Aekerman. Building Inspector—Patrick McMahon.

1902—Mayor, Charles M. Howe; President City Council, Frederick C. Streckfuss; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk (till June), Richard B. Tindall, Thomas R. Watson; City Treasurer, William Malcolm. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Hubert Bush; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber. Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Survey-





or, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, David R. Crounse; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Harry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Captain of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise; Inspector of Sewers, John Veich. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clarke; Sergeant-at-Arms, H. Gronendyke; Janitor, Thomas Sheeran. Board of Assessors—At-Large, I. C. Matthews; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Oreutt; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte. Board of Health—First Ward, Patrick Delaney; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, G. D. Bogart; Fourth Ward, Charles White; At-Large, Dr. D. R. Crounse; At-Large, William Gaston; Plumbing Inspector, William Davidson; President, John J. Slater; Secretary, G. D. Bogart; Treasurer, William F. Gaston; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe. Board of Education—First Ward, Edward J. Geiger, Dr. John N. Ryan, J. J. Lannon; Second Ward, George F. Welsh, Andrew Foulds, Walter Macabe; Third Ward, Colin King, Fred A. Barnes, L. B. Carr, George L. B. Hartt; Fourth Ward, George B. Wilson, George H. Dalrymple, Carl Pfeil; City Superintendent, F. E. Spaulding; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., F. E. Spaulding, John E. Ackerman. City Council—President, Frederick Streckfuss; First Ward, James King, John J. Welsh, Christopher J. Lane; Second Ward, Marinus J. Cannon, Thomas R. Watson, William J. Hammond; Third Ward, Thomas Foxhall, Matthew Geene, Alex. Henderson; Fourth Ward, Fred R. Lowe, Harry F. Schleich, Samuel Mulloy. Trustees of Free Public Library—John A. Willett, Irving Angell, R. D. Benson, W. C. Kimball, G. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commissioners—George P. Rust, W. S. Benson, J. E. Ackerman. Building Inspector—Patrick McMahon. Chief Engineer—Richard Baker.

1903—Mayor, David Greenlie; President City Council, Frederick C. Streckfuss; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Z. A. Van Houten; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Hubert Bush; Fourth Ward, Christian Huber. Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. David R. Crounse; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clark; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro; Janitor, Thomas Sheeran. Board of Assessors—President-at-Large, Giles Oreutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Oreutt; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, John J. Slater; Secretary, G. D. Bogart; First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, G. D. Bogart; Fourth Ward, Charles L. White; At-Large, William F. Gaston; At-Large, Dr. D. R. Crounse; Health Inspector, W. S. Clearwater; Plumbing Inspector, William Davidson; Treasurer, William F. Gaston; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe. Board of Education—President, F. A. Barnes; Secretary, Charles F. Cowley; First Ward, Dr. John Ryan, J. J. Lannon, Edward J. Geiger; Second Ward, George T. Welsh, Walter MacCabe, Edwin Flower; Third Ward, F. A. Barnes, Colin King, John Adams; Fourth Ward, George B. Wilson, Carl Pfeil, Charles F. Cowley; City Superintendent, F. E. Spaulding; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., F. E. Spaulding, Rev. Ame Venema. City Council—President, Frederick C. Streckfuss; First Ward, James King, Christopher J. Lane, Michael J. Rean; Second Ward, Marinus J. Coman, William H. Hammond, Timothy C. Lucas; Third Ward, Thomas Foxhall, Alex. Henderson, George K. Rose; Fourth Ward, (?). Trustees Free Public Library, John A. Willett, Irving Angell, R. D. Benson, W. C. Kimball, Gilbert W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commissioners, George P. Rust, W. S. Benson, J. E. Ackerman.

1904—Mayor, David Greenlie; President Council, Frederick C. Streckfuss; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Z. A. Van Houten; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third Ward, Dow H. Drukker; Fourth Ward, William B. Davidson. Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. David R. Crounse; Police Justice, John H. Bowker; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech; Building Inspector, Patrick McMahon. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clark; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro. Board of Assessors—President, Giles S. Oreutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Oreutt; Third Ward, William F. Magee; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; At-Large, Irving G. Matthews; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, Dr. G. Van Vranken; Secretary, William B.



Davidson; First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Bernard G. Volger; Fourth Ward, Charles L. White; At-Large, Dr. Robert Armstrong; At-Large, Dr. G. Van Vranken; Plumbing Inspector, William Davidson; Treasurer, James A. Hanlon; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe; Medical Inspector, Dr. Hiram Williams. Board of Education—President, Walter MacCabe; Secretary, Charles F. Cowley; First Ward, Dr. John Ryan, John De Vries, Edward J. Geiger; Second Ward, Walter MacCabe, Edwin Flower, James Bull; Third Ward, Colin King, John Adams, Edward Hall; Fourth Ward, Carl Pfeil, Charles F. Cowley, William A. Reid; City Superintendent, F. E. Spaulding. City Board of Examiners—A. O. Miller, Jr., Rev. Ame Vennema, Frank E. Spaulding. City Counsel—President, Frederick C. Streckfuss; First Ward, James King, Christopher J. Lane, Midoel J. Rean; Second Ward, Marinus J. Coman, William H. Hammond, Timothy C. Lucas; Third Ward, Alex Henderson, George K. Rose, John H. Osborn; Fourth Ward, Harry Schleich, Samuel Mulloy, Joseph Spitz. Trustees Free Public Library—Irving Angell, R. D. Benson, Gilbert W. Blanchard, W. C. Kimball, Edward Allen Green. Shade Tree Commissioners—George P. Rust, W. S. Benson, J. E. Ackerman. Commissioners of Appeals in Cases of T—J. T. F. Bird, Jacob Van Winkle, Watson A. Bogart. Commissioners of Adjustment—William W. Watson, Frederick A. Soule, John J. Bowes, Carl S. Deans, Clerk.

1905—Mayor, David Greenlie; President City Council, Frederick R. Low; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Zabriskie A. Van Houten; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman. Chosen Freeholders—First Ward, Michael J. Dillon; Second Ward, Edward N. Kevitt; Third, Dow H. Drukker; Fourth Ward, William B. Davidson. Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Colin R. Wise; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. David R. Crounse; Police Justice, George H. Dalrymple; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar of Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly; Superintendent of Sewers, Colin R. Wise; Building Inspector, Patrick McMahon; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William R. Watson; Clerk, Silas A. Clark; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. DeMuro. Board of Assessors—President, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Orcutt; Third Ward, William T. Magee; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; At-Large, Irving C. Matthews; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, Bernard G. Volger; Secretary, William B. Davidson; First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Bernard G. Volger; Fourth Ward, Charles White; At-Large, Dr. Robert Armstrong; At-Large, Anton L. Pettersen; Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe; Medical Inspector, Dr. Hiram Williams. Board of Education—President, Edwin Flower; Secretary, Charles F. Cowley; Superintendent of Schools, O. I. Woodley; First Ward, Daniel J. Brady, Philip Casteline, Joseph J. Mara; Second Ward, Edwin Flower, James Bull, Henry S. Hubschmidt; Third Ward, John Adams, Edward Hall, Robert R. Watson; Fourth Ward, Charles F. Cowley, William A. Reid, Walter Berridge; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., Rev. Ame Vennema, O. I. Woodley. City Council—President, Frederick R. Low; First Ward, James King, Christopher J. Lane, Michael J. Rean; Second Ward, Marinus J. Coman, William L. Hammond, Timothy C. Lucas; Third Ward, George K. Rose, Perley M. Berry, John H. Osborn; Fourth Ward, Harry F. Schleich, Joseph Spitz, Robert E. Calliman. Trustees Free Public Library—R. D. Benson, Irving Angell, W. C. Kimball, Edward Allen Greene, G. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commission—George P. Rust, William S. Benson, John E. Ackerman. Commissioners of Appeal in Cases of Taxation—J. T. F. Bird, Jacob Van Winkle, Watson A. Bogart. Commissioners of Adjustment—William W. Watson, Frederick A. Soule, John J. Bowes, Carl S. Deans, Clerk.

1906—Mayor, David Greenlie; President City Council, Frederick R. Low; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Z. A. Van Houten; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman; Chosen Freeholders, Anton L. Pettersen; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Anton L. Pettersen; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. David R. Crounse; Police Justice, George H. Dalrymple; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles R. Newman; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeant of Police, Matthew Kelly, James L. Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, Anton L. Pettersen; Building Inspector, Patrick McMahon; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro. Board of Assessors—President, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Orcutt; Third Ward, William T. Magee; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; At-Large, Irving C. Matthews; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, Bernard G. Volger; Secretary, William B. Davidson; First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Bernard G. Volger; Fourth Ward, Ernest Remig; At-Large, Dr. Robert R. Armstrong; At-Large, Anton L. Pettersen; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe; Medical Inspector, Dr. Hiram Williams. Board of Education—President, Edwin Flower; Secretary, Charles





F. Cowley; Superintendent of Schools, O. I. Wooley; First Ward, Daniel J. Brady, Philip Casteline, John Ruzsak; Second Ward, Edwin Flower, James Bull, Henry Hubschmidt; Third Ward, John Adams, Edward Hall, Robert R. Watson; Fourth Ward, Charles F. Cowley, William A. Reid, Walter Berridge; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., Rev. Ame Vennema, O. I. Woodley. City Council—President, Frederick R. Low; First Ward, James King, Christopher J. Lane, John J. Welsh; Second Ward, Marinus J. Coman, William L. Hammond, Garret Roosma; Third Ward, George K. Rose, Herman Friend, John H. Osborn; Fourth Ward, Henry T. Schleich, Joseph Spitz, Robert E. Callinan. Trustees Free Public Library—R. D. Benson, Louis R. Cowdrey, W. C. Kimball, Edward Allen Greene, G. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commission—George P. Rust, William S. Benson, John E. Ackerman. Commissioners of Adjustment—William W. Watson, Frederick A. Soule, John J. Bowes, Carl S. Deans, Clerk.

1907—Mayor, David Greenlie; President City Council, W. Grafton Bateman; Collector of Taxes, Albert T. Zabriskie; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Gordon L. Seger; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman; Chosen Freeholder, Anton L. Pettersen; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Anton L. Pettersen; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. David R. Crouse; Police Justice, George H. Dalrymple; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George H. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, Charles A. Rutledge; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeants-of-Police, Matthew Kelly, James Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, Anton L. Pettersen; Building Inspector, John Jelleme; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro. Board of Assessors—President, Giles S. Orcutt; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Orcutt; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; At-Large, William A. Reid; Clerk, Thomas McMahon. Board of Health—President, Bernard G. Volger; Secretary, William B. Davidson; First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Bernard G. Volger; Fourth Ward, Ernest Remig; At-Large, Dr. Robert R. Armstrong; At-Large, Anton L. Pettersen; Veterinary Inspector, Dr. J. P. Lowe; Medical Inspector, Dr. Hiram Williams; School Inspector, Dr. John N. Ryan; Plumbing Inspector, William B. Davidson. Board of Education—President, Edwin Flower; Vice-President, James L. Bull; Secretary, Charles F. Cowley; Superintendent of Schools, O. I. Woodley; First Ward, Daniel J. Brady, Philip Casteline, Edward J. Levendusky; Second Ward, Edwin Flower, James Bull, Henry Hubschmidt; Third Ward, John Adams, John Wooley, George N. Seger; Fourth Ward, Charles F. Cowley, John J. Diffily, Walter Berridge; City Board of Examiners, A. O. Miller, Jr., Rev. Ame Vennema, O. I. Woodley. City Council—President, W. Grafton Bateman; First Ward, Michael J. Rean, Christopher J. Lane, John J. Welsh; Second Ward, William Hammond, Garret Roosma, Marinus J. Coman; Third Ward, George K. Rose, Hermann Friend, J. Hosey Osborn; Fourth Ward, Harry Schleich, Joseph Spitz, Robert E. Callinan. Trustees Free Public Library—R. D. Benson, Louis R. Cowdrey, W. C. Kimball, Edward Allen Greene, G. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commission—George P. Rust, William S. Benson, John E. Ackerman. Commissioners of Adjustment—William W. Watson, Frederick A. Soule, John J. Bowes, Carl S. Deans, Clerk.

1908—Mayor, Frederick R. Lowe; President City Council, W. Grafton Bateman; Collector of Taxes, J. Hosey Osborn; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Z. A. Van Houten; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman; Chosen Freeholders, John H. Kehoe, Dow H. Drukker; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra, City Surveyor, Anton L. Pettersen; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. G. Van Schott; Police Justice, George H. Dalrymple; Overseer of Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar of Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, R. B. Anderson; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeants of Police, Matthew Kelly, James L. Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, ———; Building Inspector, John Jelleme; Inspector of Sewers, ———. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro. Board of Assessors—First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, Giles S. Orcutt; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte; At-Large, William A. Reid. Board of Health—First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Bernard G. Volger; Fourth Ward, Ernest Remig; At-Large, Dr. Robert Armstrong; At-Large, Anton L. Pettersen. Board of Education—First Ward, John Levendusky, Philip Casteline, William J. Grinnan; Second Ward, James L. Bull, Henry A. Hettema, Edwin Flower; Third Ward, George N. Seger, John Wooley, John Adams; Fourth Ward, John J. Diffily, Gustav Otto, Charles F. Cowley. City Council—President, W. Grafton Bateman; First Ward, Michael J. Rean, Christopher J. Lane, John J. Welsh; Second Ward, R. D. Benson, Garret Roosma, M. J. Coman; Third Ward, George K. Rose, Herman Friend, J. Hosey Osborn; Fourth Ward, Joseph Spitz, Hugh Waters, Harry F. Schleich. Trustees Public Library—Louis R. Cowdrey, W. C. Kimball, R. D. Benson, Edward Allen Greene, G. W. Blanchard. Shade Tree Commissioners—W. S. Benson, John E. Ackerman, George P. Rust.





1909—Mayor, Fred R. Low; President City Council, Alexander R. Henderson; Collector of Taxes, J. Hosey Osborn; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Gordon Seger; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman; Chosen Freeholders, John H. Kehoe, Dow H. Drukker; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Anton L. Pettersen; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, G. Van Schott, M. D.; Police Justice, George H. Dalrymple; Overseer of the Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George F. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, R. D. Anderson; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeants of Police, Matthew Kelly, James L. Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, (?); Building Inspector, John Jellme; Inspector of Sewers, (?); District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro. Board of Assessors—At-Large, William A. Reid; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, John Woods; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte. Board of Health—First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, John J. Slater; Third Ward, Charles F. H. Johnson; Fourth Ward, Anton Pettersen; At-Large, Dr. Frank H. Field, Mason R. Strong, George H. Mitchell. Board of Education—First Ward, Philip Casteline, William Grinnan, Edward J. Levendusky; Second Ward, James L. Bull, Harry A. Hettema, Harry Loeb; Third Ward, George N. Seger, John Wooley, Samuel Hird; Fourth Ward, John J. Diffily, Gustav Otto, Charles F. Cowley. Trustees Public Library—Louis R. Cowdrey, W. C. Kimball, R. D. Benson, G. W. Blanchard. City Council—President-at-Large, Alexander Henderson; First Ward, Michael J. Rean, Christopher J. Lane, John Welsh; Second Ward, R. D. Benson, Edward M. Kevitt, Garret Roosma; Third Ward, Herman Friend, M. B. Matthews, Arthur P. Jackson; Fourth Ward, Joseph Spitz, Hugh Waters, Thomas J. Walsh. Shade Tree Commissioners—W. S. Benson, John E. Ackerman, George P. Rust.

1910—Mayor, Bird W. Spencer; President of the City Council, Alexander R. Henderson; Collector of Taxes, J. Hosey Osborn; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; City Treasurer, John E. Ackerman; Chosen Freeholders, John H. Kehoe, Dow H. Drukker; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Surveyor, Anton L. Pettersen; City Counsel, A. D. Sullivan; City Physician, Dr. Van Schott, M. D.; Police Justice, Thomas P. Costello; Overseer of Poor, Henry H. Hutton; Registrar Vital Statistics, George R. Grear; Superintendent Fire Alarm, (?); Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeants of Police, Matthew Kelly, James L. Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, (?); Building Inspector, John Jellme; Inspector of Sewers, John Veech. District Court—Judge, William W. Watson; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro; Deputy City Clerk, Gordon L. Seger. Board of Assessors—At-Large, William A. Reid; First Ward, Thomas McMahon; Second Ward, John Woods; Third Ward, James T. Boyle; Fourth Ward, Aaron Witte. Board of Health—First Ward, James A. Hanlon; Second Ward, William L. Lyall; Third Ward, C. F. H. Johnson; Fourth Ward, Anton L. Pettersen; At-Large, Dr. Frank H. Field, Mason R. Strong, George H. Mitchell. Board of Education—First Ward, William J. Grinnan, Edward J. Levendusky, John Rizak; Second Ward, Harry Hettema, James L. Bull, Harry Loeb; Third Ward, John Wooley, Samuel Hird, Ellsworth Shaffto; Fourth Ward, Gustav Otto, Kalman Von Haitinger, Charles F. Cowley; President, Edwin Flower. Trustees of Public Library—Louis R. Cowdrey, R. D. Benson, G. W. Blanchard, William C. Kimball. City Council—President-at-Large, Alexander Henderson; First Ward, Christopher J. Lane, Edward Levendusky, John Labash; Second Ward, R. D. Benson, Edward M. Kevitt, Garret Roosma; Third Ward, Arthur P. Jackson, Edward A. Greene, M. B. Matthews; Fourth Ward, Hugh Waters, Norman G. Darmstatter, Thomas J. Walsh. Shade Tree Commissioners—George P. Rust, William S. Benson, John E. Ackerman.

1911—Mayor, Bird W. Spencer; President City Council, Alexander Henderson; Collector of Taxes, J. Hosey Osborn; City Clerk, Thomas R. Watson; Deputy City Clerk, Gordon L. Seger; City Treasurer, H. J. Ketcham; Chosen Freeholders, John H. Kehoe, Dow H. Drukker; Superintendent of Streets, John Schilstra; City Engineer, John Doolittle; City Counsel, Henry C. Whitehead; City Physician, Dr. G. J. Van Schott; Police Justice, Thomas P. Costello; Overseer of the Poor, James H. Roscoe; Registrar of Vital Statistics, Thomas R. Watson; Superintendent Fire Alarm, W. S. Gibson; Chief of Police, William Hendry; Sergeants of Police, Matthew Kelly, James L. Lockwood; Superintendent of Sewers, James B. Greeley; Building Inspector, John Jellme; Inspector of Sewers, (?). District Court—Judge, W. Carrington Cabell; Clerk, Thomas M. Bustard; Sergeant-at-Arms, D. De Muro; Sealer of Weights and Measures, Peter J. Gallagher. Board of Assessors—Clerk-at-Large, John Woods; First Ward, Louis Lipschitz; Second Ward, John Woods; Third Ward, Aaron Witte; Fourth Ward, James T. Boyle. Board of Health—First Ward, Dr. V. G. Beeska; Second Ward, Edwin De Baun; Third Ward, Charles F. H. Johnson; Fourth Ward, Anton L. Pettersen; Presidents-at-Large, Frank H. Field, George H. Mitchell, Mason R. Strong. Board of Education—First Ward, Edward J. Levendusky, Kalman Haitinger, Edward J. Green; Second Ward, James L. Bull, Alfred Ehrhardt, Harry Loeb; Third Ward, Ellsworth Shaffto, Samuel Hird, John Wooley; Fourth Ward, John N. Ryan, Charles F. Cowley; Presi-



dent, Edwin Flower. Trustees Public Library, G. W. Blanchard, Louis R. Cowdrey, R. D. Benson. City Council—President-at-Large, Alexander Henderson; First Ward, Christopher J. Lane, John J. Labash, Edward J. Levendusky; Second Ward, Garret Roosma, Fred M. Bredin, Edward M. Kevitt; Third Ward, Edward A. Greene, Arthur P. Jackson, M. B. Matthews; Fourth Ward, Hugh Waters, Norman G. Darmstatter, Thomas J. Walsh. Shade Tree Commissioners—George P. Rust, Daniel Dunphy, William S. Benson.

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Clerk, George H. Rice; Building Inspector, John Jelleme. Department of Streets and Public Improvements—Director, William A. Reid; City Engineer, Colin R. Wise; Superintendent of Streets, Arthur Reid. Department of Parks and Public Buildings—Adrian D. Sullivan. Park Commission—Bird W. Spencer, Daniel J. Dumphy, John J. O'Leary, John R. Meader, John R. Johnson.

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George N. Seger; City Treasurer, H. J. Ketcham; Comptroller, A. D. Bolton; Tax Collector, T. Frylinck; Superintendent of Weights and Measures, Peter J. Gallagher; District Court Judge, W. Carrington Cabell; District Court Clerk, T. M. Bustard. Assessors—J. Hosey Osborn, John Woods, James T. Boyle, Louis Lipchitz, Edward N. Kevitt. Department of Public Safety—Director, Abram Preiskel; Chief of Police, Gustav Schmidt; Captain of Detectives, Benjamin F. Turner; Chief Engineer Fire Department, R. H. Bowker; First Assistant Chief Engineer, Walter S. Gibson; Superintendent of Fire Alarm, Walter S. Gibson; Superintendent of Electrical Bureau, Walter S. Gibson; Second Assistant Chief Engineer, William Nelson; Police Justice, Thomas P. Costello. Department of Public Safety—Police Justice, Thomas P. Costello; Clerk of the Court, George H. Rice; Building Inspector, John Jelleme. Department of Streets and Public Improvements—Director, William A. Reid; City Engineer, Colin R. Wise; Assistant City Engineer, James E. Earl; Superintendent of Streets, Arthur Reid. Department of Parks and Public Property—Director, Frederick E. Sieper; Superintendent of Parks, John R. Johnson. Playground Commission—Harry H. Weinberger, Manuel N. Mirsky, Herman F. Weber, Jr., James J. Ryan (resigned), Charles A. Miller, Dennis A. Lyons. Sinking Fund Commission—Gilbert W. Blanchard, H. J. Ketcham, Hamilton M. Ross, Bernard G. Volger, William Abbott.

Commission Personnel—The Commission on Building Districts and Restrictions is composed of City Engineer Colin R. Wise, Building Inspector John Jelleme, Fire Chief Reginald H. Bowker, Supervising Assessor J. Hosey Osborn, Edward Mott Woolley, Commissioner Abram Preiskel, John M. Campbell, Commissioner George N. Seger, Arthur S. Mahony, Katherine M. Frain, Mrs. Anne R. Blauvelt. Members of the City Plan Commission follow: Commissioners Seger and Preiskel, Messrs. Woolley, Mahony, Wise, Mrs. Blauvelt and Miss Frain. The Technical Advisory Corporation are consulting engineers. On April 1, 1922, Messrs. Mahony, Osborn and Woolley resigned.





## CHAPTER XLVIII.

### THE SLANK, ITS FORMATION AND CHANGES.

In the period of the world's formation following what geologists call the Triassic formation, when the underlying strata beneath our city was formed—red sand stone upon trap rock—the entire surface was sand stone, without any covering of soil, but covered with water, when the whole territory now known as Dundee, Wallington and the island, were covered with water from twenty to perhaps seventy-five feet in depth, which, for another period of time, called the glacial age, was a frozen mass. This ice formation covered the northern part of the State, terminating at a line running across the State a mile south of Trenton.

Subsequently this ice flo was broken into fragments and the whole mass melted, and returned to its liquid state, when all the accumulations of perhaps millions of years, were deposited upon the earth's surface.

These accumulations consisted of fine particles of red sand stone (sand) which, during the mighty convulsions of Nature, had been scraped and ground from the sand stone hills, together with large boulders and pebbles of all sizes and shapes, that had been broken from the trap rock hills, and which, coming in contact with other rocks equally as hard, were smoothed and polished as we find them today. Because the water was in motion, only the particles of stone, which we call sand, settled over the present Dundee section. About this time, as we read in the first chapter of Genesis, 6-10 verses, the waters of the great sea hereabouts, began to recede and lower and so continued until the water reached a level barely covering that part of the main land which subsequently became known as the island, although it was not such then, being attached to and forming part of the upland and on a level therewith.

At this time, on the westerly margin of the stream, was an embankment which extended a little east of Third street, from above Monroe street, southerly to Essex street, where it turned and ran easterly to about the east side of Seventh street where it turned again and ran northeasterly to the present bend, above Wall street bridge. During this priod, which geologists tell us continued likewise for very many thousands of years, great and many were the courses and even channels of streams, ponds and lakes, pursued along the lines of least resistance, to continue only until altered, changed or obliterated by the relentless hand of that One, who was working out a plan, which was finally perfected. At the period now spoken of the river, which we call Passaic, formed by its great volume of water, in this vicinity, several branches or streams and lakes which no more exist as bodies of water, but whose



channels may in some cases still be seen to be filled only in time of greatest flood.

One of these streams entered the river at what is now Dundee Lake, and at present forms Nash's ponds, taking a southerly source, running nearly parallel with Lexington avenue to the Weasel brook at Clifton, whence it followed the line thereof until it emptied itself into the river on the site of Reid and Barry's mill.

Wallington was an island. A branch whose channel may still be seen, commenced at the present culvert, at the intersection of Lodi road and Locust lane, and ran southerly following the base of Shohank hill, crossing the Plank road, whence it turned and ran southwesterly to the river where its outlet may still be seen, about 800 feet north of the Erie's bridge.

Another stream and one which has an important relation to the slank, commenced on the westerly side of the present island, being that part of the slank north of Monroe street extended southerly over its present course to about Hudson street, where it took a course due southwest to the Weasel brook at Jefferson street, where its waters commingled with the waters via of Nash's pond route, and with them were discharged again into the river at Reid and Barry's as before stated.

In the course of time, however, as the volume of water in the river became less, this last mentioned stream ceased to flow, and about 1859 the Dundee Manufacturing Company filled in the greater part of the bed. At the time water ceased flowing, as stated above, over the bed thus filled in, there was no island. There was, however, quite a channel from a point opposite the head of the island to about Hudson street. Up to this time, by the force of the great current of water sweeping along the western shore of the slank, much of the earth was scooped up, carried around the southerly end of the island and out into the swiftly moving current of the river proper. When water ceased flowing over the stream leading from Hudson street to the Weasel brook at Jefferson street, the water coming down over the channel to Hudson street could not recede because of the great pressure behind or above it, and so followed the line of least resistance, and that was over the land ahead of it through the channel scooped out already, as well as a tract of four acres, subsequently known as Jacob John Vreeland's swamp lot—being the dumping grounds proper.

In course of time the waters of the river became less, dropped lower and lower until the island appeared, showing a stream surrounding it on the west and south completely, as well as a portion on its easterly side. The slank, as we call it, was on the west side of the island. Its main channel averaged, perhaps, twenty feet in width. In times of high tide the water would cover the swamp lot and other low land adjacent. The water was never very deep, varying from a few inches to a couple of feet, and so far as the depth of the water is concerned could have





been forded on foot at any point, but because of the transudatory nature of the land, fording was possible with animals and vehicles at a point in line with about the center of Hudson street. The channel was in accordance with the law of Nature, becoming smaller and more shallow every year, and was fast becoming a nuisance.

The sale of the island to Christopher Hoagland, made in July, 1678, was the first real estate conveyance made in the county. For nearly two hundred years it was cultivated by the Vreeland and Ackerman families, who owned all the upland surrounding it.

As to the filling in and reclaiming the land covered by these lateral or branch streams:

That the old stream, commencing at Dundee lake and flowing to and through parts of the First and Fourth Wards of our city, has been, at least in some portions of it, filled in and reclaimed, is readily apparent to any person.

Several streets cross it without a culvert, while at Garfield or Ackerman avenue and thereabouts, extending to President street, scores of houses now occupy the channel and basin of the old stream.

As to the stream extending from Hudson street southwesterly to the Weasel brook, at Jefferson street, there is no question but that this is closed and the channel occupied by buildings, canal, coal yards and mill property.

The stream in Wallington which made that borough, was closed more recently than the others. In early days, on the Bleachery road, leading from Passaic to Carlton Hill, there was a causeway for traveling built across the stream, raised about four feet above the land level, with an opening for the stream, which was of small volume when compressed, and the water very shallow. This, then, was the road leading to Paulus Hook (Jersey City). In 1806 or thereabouts the plank road was constructed from our city to now Hoboken. This road was laid for a long distance—viz., from Locust lane to Shohank Hill, straight across this old stream, without a culvert. In the last great flood it was interesting to observe the water flowing into the old channel, where it remained long after the waters had subsided. The closing of all these streams was made to accommodate the march of improvements demanded by the progress of civilization, as will be in the case of this slank, which ceased to serve the purposes of its creation long ago, and, in order to abate a nuisance for which it was not created, it was abolished.

**THE SLANK FIGHT**—The history of many important political and governmental fights of the city of Passaic is interwoven with the name of Mr. J. Hosey Osborn, one of the most important of which is what is commonly known as the "slank fight."

Prior to the adoption by the city of Passaic of the Commission form of government, there had been steps taken to establish a park system.



Among the sites selected for park purposes was a tract of land known as Dundee Island. While the island was very properly selected for park purposes, in size it was wholly inadequate to meet the demands for recreation of the many thousands of industrial people in this crowded section.

West of the island there ran a part of the Passaic river commonly known as the "slank," and during the early history of Passaic this branch of the river was as wide as the branch upon the east side of Dundee Island. During the course of Passaic's development the slank, or the westerly branch of the Passaic river, was encroached upon by various property owners through dumping garbage and ashes into the river for the purpose of extending their land holdings. This continued for many years until the greater part of the slank, or the westerly branch of the Passaic river had been mostly filled, leaving but a small stream between Dundee Island and the filled land.

Due to the growth of the city, this filled land became very valuable and was worth upwards to \$400,000, and in order that certain alleged owners of this property might improve it and place it upon the market for sale, action was taken in 1910, under the old form of government, to lay out, open and improve Fifth street. This street improvement contemplated the further filling of the Passaic river and when it was undertaken property owners, who were adverse to the opening of Fifth street, protested against the improvement upon the ground that the city was without lawful right to the bed of the river for street purposes, contending it was State property. Nevertheless contracts were awarded for the improvement of Fifth street amounting to \$45,746.00. The work was more than half completed and the contractor was actually paid more than \$27,000.00 for this work.

While it was in progress, and while the old form of government was still in power, the borough of Garfield, now the city of Garfield, started a suit in the Court of Chancery to restrain the city of Passaic from filling in and encroaching upon the Passaic river, alleging as a ground for their equitable relief, that the filling of the stream would increase the danger to property in the city of Garfield from floods, which might occur from high water, during the spring and late winter freshets.

While this litigation was in progress and the city of Passaic had been temporarily restrained from further filling of the Passaic river, the Commission form of government was adopted in 1911. After the election of the Commissioners, Mr. Osborn, who was the Commissioner of Finance, took an active interest in the slank controversy, even though it was not within his department. In his customary manner he personally made a very thorough investigation of all the facts, and when they were ascertained, he took steps to become familiar with the law upon the subject and when convinced that the persons alleging to own property in the slank were without any legal title to it and that Fifth





street was being constructed upon State property, and that all money expended and being expended by the city of Passaic was likely to be wasted, he brought the entire matter to the attention of the Commissioners and insisted that the city counsel make a thorough investigation of the slank controversy, and advise the Commissioners in regard thereto.

When considering the amount of money involved in this controversy and the influence brought to bear to prevent loss to private citizens of a sum of money amounting to about \$400,000, it is not hard to perceive the political and other difficulties which Mr. Osborn had to overcome in his fight for this land in behalf of the city of Passaic. It was his plan to acquire this property and thereby practically double the size of the First Ward Park so that the industrial people would have a proper recreation ground and the city of Passaic saved the expenditure of a vast sum of money for the enrichment of private interests. He had not only to handle the political situation of Passaic but also had to contend with the adverse interests of Garfield, and to this end it was necessary for him to negotiate to bring the two municipalities into harmonious action for the welfare of the citizens in each community.

After the city counsel had reported to the City Commissioners his findings that the property alleged to be owned by private owners was in fact State land, Mr. Osborn undertook the fight to acquire it for park purposes and to this end caused an application to be made in behalf of the city of Passaic to the Riparian Commissioners for a grant to the city of Passaic. To be successful in this undertaking, the objection of Garfield had to be overcome and after untiring efforts, he was successful in gaining the consent of Garfield to the grant in consideration of less than \$5,000. This adjustment also did away with the expensive chancery suit pending against the City of Passaic, and was accomplished by Mr. Osborn through his convincing Garfield what a great benefit a park would be lying between the two cities.

When this adjustment was consummated, the Riparian Commissioners made the grant to the City of Passaic in consideration of \$5,000 of all the land formerly lying in the west branch of the Passaic river. Passaic having thus acquired title, the next step was to get possession of property held by private owners, and to this end ejectment suits were instituted and bitterly contested. At this time the public so little comprehended the nature of the struggle that little or no help was given by citizens. The jury which heard the case decided in favor of the private claimants. At this point, a man less persevering than Mr. Osborn in his fight would have abandoned the struggle and felt that he had performed his full duty. This was not, however, his course. He was convinced that the verdict of the jury was not just and took an appeal to the higher courts, and refused to consider the influence brought to bear





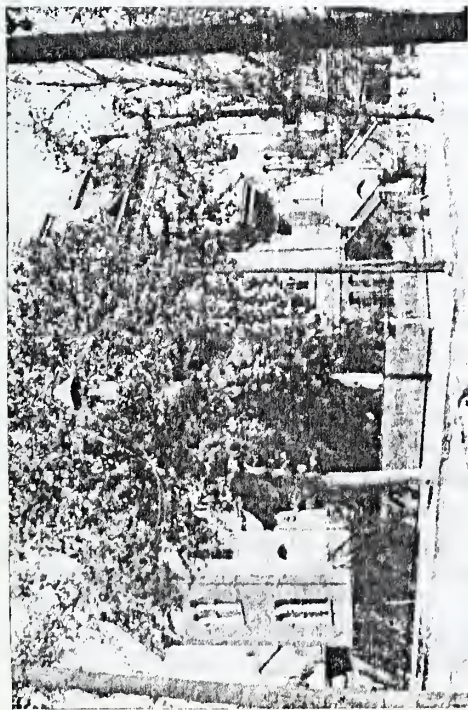
to abandon the litigation and to accept offers of compromise made by those interested.

After a hard contest in the upper courts, the merit of the fight was sustained, and a decision rendered reversing the findings of the jury against the city of Passaic. This decision of the Appellate Court gave Passaic title to every foot of land described within the grant of the Riparian Commissioners and resulted in nearly doubling the size of the First Ward Park without practically any cost to the city of Passaic, except the small amount involved in litigation, and when taking into consideration the money returned to the city treasurer by private claimants to the land involved in the suits and money saved out of the contract to extend and improve Fifth street, this entire matter resulted in practically no cost whatever to the city. The controversy lasted nearly five years before a final decision was reached.

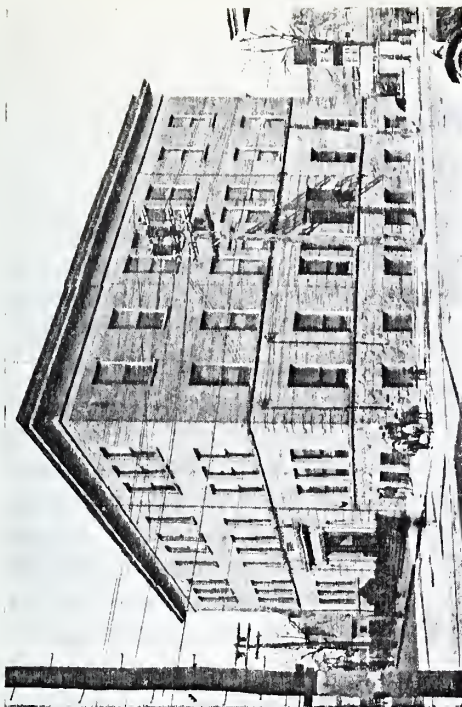
One only has to visit the First Ward Park and see it as it is today to appreciate that if Mr. Osborn had not continued this fight, today we would have a park only about one-half of its present size. As the Park is now seen, one can appreciate the great civic benefits it confers upon the citizens of Passaic, and when we have in mind the future development of the community and the benefits which from year to year come to the many children and other users of the park, one cannot hesitate in feeling that this accomplishment has never been excelled by any one ever acting officially for the city of Passaic. While the money benefit conferred upon Passaic was at least \$400,000, this vast sum does not equal the lasting benefit which this park will forever give to our industrial people. Some day, it is the hope, the citizens will fully see and appreciate the great benefit that has been given to them by the acquiring of this land for all the people for all time and recognize the persevering efforts of its author by naming this public land, "Osborn's Park."



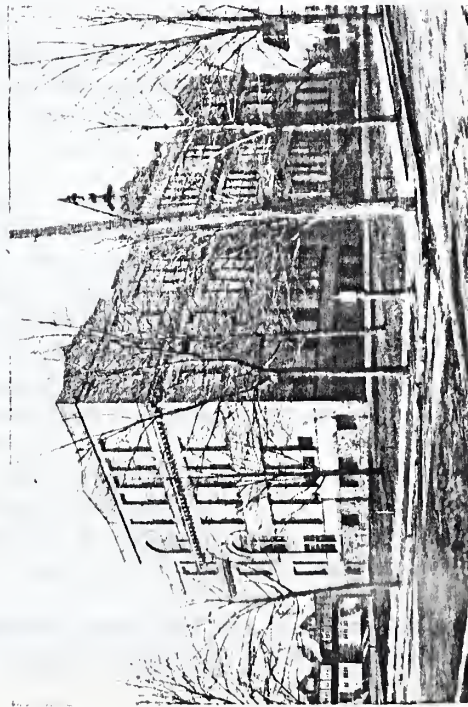




PASSAIC'S FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL (No. 1)



PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 2, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 3, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 4, PASSAIC





## CHAPTER XLIX.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The history of the earlier schools in Passaic has been related under the chapter entitled, "District Schools," the last teacher in that school being Mr. A. W. Hennion, who taught there from 1861-1870. He died January 31, 1911.

The first free public school in our city, and known as No. 1, located on Passaic street, was opened for the first time October 3, 1870, (destroyed by fire, October 6, 1921), under Mr. Samuel W. Rice as principal, assisted by six teachers, who cared for 375 scholars. The course of study was divided into primary, grammar and high school departments. The new school building and land cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000, bonds for which were issued under a special act of the Legislature for that purpose.

In 1872 the Dundee Water Power and Land Company donated eight lots at the corner of Bergen and Second streets, providing a school costing not less than \$15,000 should be erected thereon. This school was erected while Passaic was still under the village government.

When the old district school closed its doors it had an enrollment of seventy-two pupils. With the opening of the new public school this number was surprisingly increased to 270 in the primary, seventy in the grammar and thirty in the high school grades. The primary was divided into Classes A, B, C and D, and the grammar and high school into Classes A, B and C, respectively. This made a three years' course in the high school. The courses of study were:

Primary, D Class—Alphabet, school charts, counting to 100, printing on slates, writing numbers to 100, addition and subtraction by numeral frame, object lessons.

C Class—Reading in primer, printing on slates, spelling, addition of numbers in two columns, writing of numbers to 200, object lessons.

B Class—Reading in first reader, printing, spelling lessons, addition table (with addition of written, mental and table work) object lessons.

A Class—Reading in second reader, writing, finishing of primary arithmetic, addition and subtraction tables (mental and written), rudiments of arithmetic to division, object lessons and calisthenic exercises.

Grammar, C Class—Reading in third reader, rudiments of arithmetic to fractions, spelling, geography No. 2, oral grammar, map drawing.

B Class—Reading in third reader, rudiments of arithmetic to the reduction of compound numbers, geography to Europe, writing, spelling, map drawing, composition, Bullion's elements of grammar.

A Class—Reading in fourth reader, Robinson's rudiments of arithmetic finished, Bullion's elements of grammar finished, writing, spelling, map drawing and composition.



## HIGH SCHOOL.

**C Class**—First term: Robinson's practical arithmetic to percentage, Bullion's analytical grammar to Part 3, history of United States through the American Revolution. Warren's common school geography through the United States, Parker and Watson's fourth reader, National pronouncing speller, Alden's Citizens' manual of the constitution, map drawing by triangulation, declamation and composition.

**C Class**—Second term: Arithmetic to square root, analytical grammar continued, history finished, manual of constitution finished, geography to Europe, spelling, reading, declamation, map drawing and composition.

**B Class (Second year)**—First term: Arithmetic finished, analytical grammar with analysis of sentences, geography finished, Anna Randoll's elocution, penmanship, algebra.

**B Class (Second term)**—Algebra finished, simple equations, analysis and parsing, Cutter's anatomy and physiology, elocution, penmanship, arithmetic reviewed, composition and rhetoric.

**A Class (Third year)**—First term: Algebra through quadratics, Brook's geometry to Book 3, Street's natural philosophy, composition and rhetoric, anatomy and physiology completed, bookkeeping and Latin.

**A Class**—Second term: Algebra finished, geometry to Book 5, grammar reviewed, natural philosophy finished, Latin, chemistry, geology, bookkeeping with a review of previous studies of the course.

The following rules were promulgated:

The school year was divided into two terms. The first, from the first Monday in September to December 31st, and the second from January 2nd to the third Friday in July on every week day, excepting Saturday, Fourth of July, Washington's birthday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas to New Year's week. Session hours, 9 to 12; 1:30 to 3:30, with recess from 10:30 to 10:50.

At the opening exercises every morning the principal was required to read a selection from the Bible, without comment, followed by the Lord's Prayer and singing. The principal had power to suspend a pupil for infraction of any rule of conduct or disobedience. Pupils of the Grammar and High Schools were required to learn one lesson, at least, out of school, and might be detained after school hours for any failure in recitations, infraction of any rule and for disobedience.

In the earlier days of our public schools the scholars gave entertainments in order to raise funds to provide articles which were needed, among them two pianos, a Leyden Jar, chemistry utensils, library books, and many other accessories, for the purchase of which the trustees claimed they had no authority. They could spend money for necessities only, they said, which these things were not. These entertainments were called Exhibitions, held annually. The following is a copy of an original in the possession of the editor:

**P R O G R A M M E**  
**SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION**  
of the

**PASSAIC PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**ON THURSDAY EVE', DEC. 21, 1871**

[The first one was held December 23, 1870, when \$500 were raised for two pianos.]

S. W. RICE

PRINCIPAL



TICKETS, TWENTY-FIVE CENT.

Proceeds for the purpose of

## PROCURING A SCHOOL LIBRARY

## PROGRAMME

Greeting Glee .....	School
Address of Welcome .....	John McConnell
Dialogue—"Little Visitors" .....	C. Gr. School
Instrumental Music .....	Kate McDanolds
Dialogue—"Try Again" .....	B. Gr. School
"The Lent Jewels" .....	Cornelia Strong
Waltz .....	Sarah Pudney and Lula Demarest
Dialogue—"The Wonderful Scholar" .....	A. Gr. School
Instrumental Music .....	Lizzie Stewart
"The School Master Abroad" .....	A. Gr. School
"Geography Song" .....	John McConnell
"Petroleum" .....	A. Gr. School
"Fishes in the Sea" .....	Addie Post
"Circumstances Alter Cases" .....	High School
Duet .....	Ella Post and J. Van Iderstine
"Angels of Buena Vista" .....	Mary Doolittle
"The Hayden" .....	High School
"Daisie Dean" .....	Rachel Post
"The Old Folks' Party" .....	Gr. and High School
"Sleigh Riding" .....	School
"The Rival Poets" .....	Herman Shulting and Fred. Norton
"The New Scholar" .....	High School
Duet—"No Home" .....	Aggie Smalley and Sarah Pudney
"We Are All Teetotalers" .....	High School
"Death of the Old Year" .....	Rachel Christie
Recitation .....	Lena Garrison
"Echo Song" .....	School
"The Country Cousins" .....	High School
"Down Among the Lillies" .....	Aggie, Sarah, Louisa and Abbie
"Scourging of Helodorus" .....	William W. Scott
"Mr. Smith's Day at Home" .....	High School
"On, Boys, On" .....	William W. Scott
"Night and Morning" .....	Marietta Sharot and Addie Post
"Sea of Troubles" .....	High School
Duet—"Face Against the Pane" .....	Mary Brevoort and Louisa Hill
"The Rival Politicians" .....	William W. Scott and George Foster
"Qui-vive Gallop" .....	Addie Post and Marietta Sharot
"Archie Dean" .....	Lottie Jelleme
"Laughing Chorus" .....	School

The following is likewise a copy of an original, also in possession of the editor. Both of these, in time, will find a place in the High School library, of which that first exhibition laid the foundation:

## FIRST COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

of

## THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Passaic, N. J.





to be held at  
**KILGOUR LYCEUM**  
 on  
 Thursday Evening, July 10th, 1873  
 Exercise to commence at Eight o'clock

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**PROGRAMME**

**CHANT**

Prayer by Dr. J. M. Howe, Member of the State Board of Education  
 Salutory ..... Marietta Sharot  
 Instrumental Duet ..... Laura Demarest, Ida Millington

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**THE AUNT'S HEIRESS**

**CHARACTERS**

Aggie Smalley ..... Mrs. John Smith  
 Lizzie Russling, Katie Cone, Katie McDanolds, Lou Hill,  
 Ida Millington, Abbie Hill, Libbie Birch..... Daughters of Mrs. Smith  
 Lizzie Bartlet ..... Sippets  
 Lena Garrison ..... Betsey Brown  
 Sophie Bremner ..... Mrs. Alexander De Courcy Smith

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Essay—"Ambition" ..... William W. Scott  
 Declamation—"Laborare Est Orare" ..... Fred. Washburne  
 Song—"I Have no Home" ..... Rachel Post

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**"DARKEST BEFORE DAWN"**

**CHARACTERS**

Sophie Bremner ..... Mrs. De Longueville  
 Elvie Enderly ..... Natheli  
 Nellie McDanolds ..... Leonore  
 Hannah Wright ..... Helen  
 Lura Demarest ..... Mrs. Banta  
 Josie Felix ..... Mrs. Neville  
 Lizzie Rusling ..... Hattie  
 William W. Scott ..... Mr. Neville  
 Fred Washburne ..... Mike Donovan  
 Chas. Newman ..... Cisco

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Duet ..... Aggie Smalley and Lou Hill  
 Essay—"Gold and Gilding" ..... Hattie Terhune

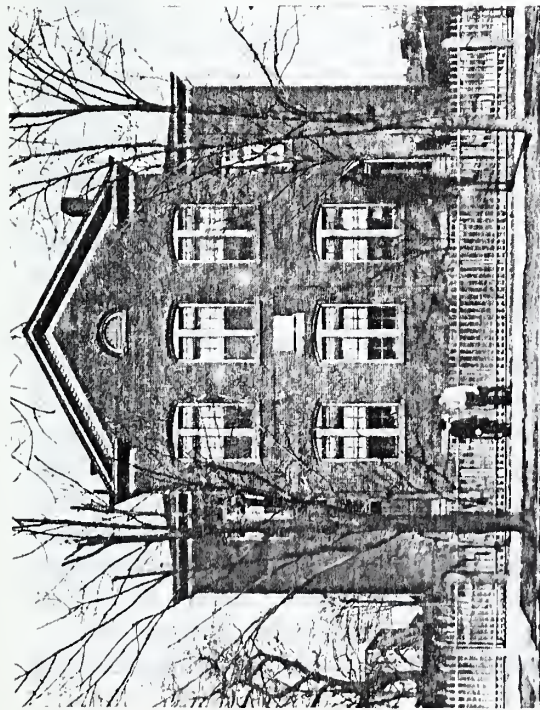
**Song of the Seven.**

Declamation—"Darkness" ..... Edward Jewett  
 Solo—"Dearest" ..... Josie Felix  
 Essay—"Songs I Remember" ..... Lena Garrison  
 Duet ..... Lou and Abbie Hill  
 Essay—"Builders" ..... Katie McDanolds  
 Music ..... Ida Enderly and Lillie Wood  
 Valedictory ..... Aggie Smalley  
 Duet ..... Libbie and Gerie Birch

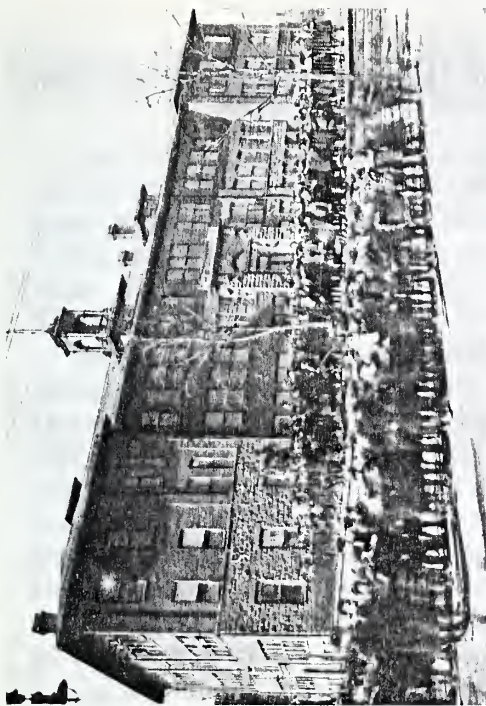
Presentation of Diplomas by President of Board of Trustees.

**CHORUS**





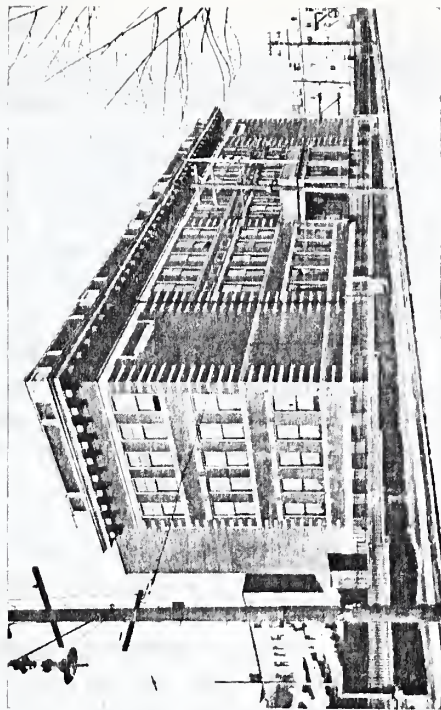
PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 5, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 7, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 6, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 8, PASSAIC







## GRADUATES

Aggie Smalley, Marrietta Sharot, Lena Garrison, Hattie Terhune, Sophie Bremner, William W. Scott, Katie McDanolds, Minnie Sharot

In 1873 the City of Passaic was incorporated, and a Board of Education was organized, its first president being Rev. Marshall B. Smith, and its secretary, Andrew Foulds. In September, 1874, School No. Three was opened in a rented room in what is now Passaic Park section. In 1877 School known as Old No. Four, was built at a cost of \$3,000, consisting only of two rooms and being of frame construction.

In 1881, Mr. Rice terminated his services with the schools, which shortly afterward was followed by his death. He was succeeded by Mr. George W. Calkins in 1881. Mr. Calkins was a graduate of Brown University. In that year Old School No. Four was raised up, providing two additional rooms. At this time the total enrollment for the city reached 1,000 pupils. Mr. Calkins served until the close of the school year in 1884, and in the following year Mr. Henry H. Hutton, a man of Scotch descent, was engaged as principal. He was a graduate of Genesee College, now Syracuse University. He was imbued with the idea of higher education, and was an energetic, enthusiastic man.

In 1886 night school was first introduced in our city. The first high school was erected soon after Mr. Hutton's coming, and opened for use in the fall of 1887. This is now School No. Eleven. School No. Five, on Harrison street, was built in 1888. It is now used for mentally deficient.

Professor Hutton set an example to students by pursuing a post-graduate course in New York University and received the degree of Ph. D. in the year 1890. Under him the classical-academic course was adopted in 1891, and the subject of manual training was for the first time brought to the attention of the public. In March, 1891, Dr. Hutton was made City Superintendent, and Mr. Rutgers B. Jewett was made principal of the high school. In 1891 kindergarten school was introduced.

In 1894 new No. Four School was erected, and in 1895 a manual training school was established in old No. Four, where also a school kitchen was established. In 1895 Mr. Sedgwick Mather became Latin instructor, and in the same year the course of study in the high school was extended from three to four years. In 1895 Mr. Mather succeeded Mr. Jewett as principal of the high school, and remained until 1897. In 1897 School No. Six, on Hamilton avenue, was erected. Dr. Hutton relinquished the position of superintendent in 1897, and held the principalship of the high school for one year, when he was succeeded by Mr. M. H. Small. His connection with the school ceased in 1898.

The decade following 1889, the year when the Botany Mills came here, witnessed Passaic's phenomenal growth, eclipsing that of any



other city in the United States. As a result school accommodations soon became inadequate, and Dr. Hutton received the blame from parents, as well as the Board of Education, one of whose members—Reverend Dr. Pratt, going so far as to write a public letter June 4, 1897, wherein he stated: "We are behind the times in school matters, and need progress." Upon investigation this was found to be true and Dr. Hutton was advised to resign, which he did, and Frank H. Spaulding, of Ware, Mass., received appointment out of sixty applicants. He was a graduate of Amherst College, and three years later received his Ph. D. degree from the celebrated University of Leipsig, Germany. He was well qualified to fill the position here. During his incumbency Schools Nos. Seven, Eight and Nine, and the first High School building, were erected. Being able to secure a position commanding a greater salary than the \$2,000 he was getting here, he resigned in 1904, being succeeded by Oscar I. Woodley, who served from 1904 to 1910, during which School No. Ten and a new \$290,000 high school were erected, although he did not remain to enjoy the latter, resigning two months previous to its completion.

The professional career of Dr. Spaulding followed an extended period of study at home and abroad. His early education was in a country school in New Hampshire, and later at Amherst College in Massachusetts where he was graduated with honors and won his A. B. degree.

Immediately after being graduated in 1885, he entered the teaching profession in Louisville, Ky. After two years there he went abroad and took graduate work in psychology, philosophy and pedagogy at the university of Leipsic, Berlin, College of France and the Sorbonne, in Paris. He received his degree as doctor of philosophy from Leipsic University in 1894.

After returning he was appointed honorary fellow at Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and later began his professional career as superintendent at Ware, Mass., coming from that position to Passaic.

Dr. Spaulding, who is now fifty-five, was the first actual superintendent of the Passaic schools in the modern sense. He came to Passaic in 1897 soon after taking his Ph. D. degree at Leipsic University, Germany. He succeeded the late Dr. Henry H. Hutton, long principal of the High School and head of the school system, and who continued for a time at the head of the High School. Building on the groundwork supplied by Dr. Hutton, Dr. Spaulding in a short time made Passaic's schools the envy of the State, establishing a standard which it has been the aim of his successors to maintain.

He left Passaic nearly twenty years ago and went to Newton, Mass. From Newton he went to Minneapolis, and from there, in 1917, to Cleveland, where he remained until August 1, 1920, when he resigned to





accept a professorship at Yale University as head of a new department of education in the graduate school.

In commenting on his resignation Dr. Spaulding gave as his reasons an increased opportunity for larger educational work and desire to be relieved of the strain of an executive position which was undermining his health.

The Yale position pays him \$8,000 a year. His Cleveland salary was \$12,000. As Cleveland superintendent he has been widely known as the highest paid educator in the world. Dr. Spaulding is the author of many school text books. He is a member of the education board of the Rockefeller Foundation, and toward the close of the war he went to France to organize the American university movement abroad for the American Expeditionary Forces.

Mr. Woodley was succeeded in the Fall of 1914, by Ulyses Grant Wheeler, who was not an applicant for the position, which he received upon the recommendation of friends. Mr. Wheeler was a graduate of Bates College in 1887, and came here from Everett, Mass., where he had served as superintendent for eight years. As Passaic had been spending such large sums on schools Mr. Wheeler was admonished to be careful and practice economy. He acted accordingly, and with the exception of an extension to No. Eight and changing the old High School to a grammar school no money was spent on school buildings.

Mr. Wheeler was succeeded in the Fall of 1914 by Dr. Fred S. Shepherd, who discovered what previous superintendents had failed to discover and that was the need of a school for vocational training in this city, where the children of the mill, factory and shop-workers might be taught a trade or other means of livelihood. He was a friend of those who could not afford to take the higher form of book education, for which such large sums had been recently spent by the city. He thought it was time that something should be done for such, and brought the matter to the attention of the Board of Education, who came to agree with Dr. Shepherd and delegated him to select the plan, which after considerable travel, careful investigation and study, led to the selection and adoption of the Wirt system of the Gary plan then very popular in the city of Gary, Indiana where it had its origin. Such a plan required a building especially for this work. Instead, however, of erecting a new building, Dr. Shepherd had No. Ten School remodelled, thereby saving the city at least \$25,000, and yet he was criticized by many for spending \$20,000 to carry out his fad, to which he paid no attention. His fad is now justified not only of his children, but the public, his critics, included, now admit the wisdom of his choice, after five years of successful demonstration where, since the Fall of 1915, pupils in the seventh and eighth grammar grades, have been taught practical things, in the acquisition of which the boys will gain that period of apprenticeship (usually three years) formerly entered upon when leaving school,





which, aside from all else, is of very great value to the boy. The same may be applied to girls who often served as apprentices in millinery and dress-making establishments.

Ever since this school was opened for business, it has been a veritable bee-hive of industry, where boys learn to spin and weave on real man's machines—a desirable occupation for boys of a city and community containing the largest worsted industries in the world—operations on drills and lathes are taught and the way machines are fashioned is pointed out and all work done under the direction of a skilled mechanic. And so it is in every line of planning and operating, constructing and putting to practical use those things which are bound to prove a lasting benefit to the boys in after years. But it is not mechanical arts that are taught here, where domestic science plays its part in educating girls how to bake and cook, prepare food for a palatable meal, and to sew, mend and knit, preparing them to become good housekeepers in practical ways. Not all of the school day is given to work. There is study time, play time, as well as exercises in the auditorium, and calisthenics, in all which these pupils of the seventh and eighth grammar grades engage heartily, many becoming so fascinated that they do not want to stop at the end of the limited period of time into which the day is divided for work, play and study.

Conditions in growth of the city and naturally an increase in school pupils, demanded another building. This led to No. Twelve School, which was built in 1918 at the corner of Lydia and Madison streets (Lydia was the name of the wife of George Vreeland, the only son of the owner of the land on which the school stands). This is also a Work-Study-Play school, wherein night school is held with an enrollment of 251 in October, 1921, of which sixteen were in the machine shop, forty-five in the two mechanical drawing classes and the remainder in American language classes.

During Dr. Shepherd's time there have been great advancements and improvements in the curriculum as well as modes of teaching, brought about by the progressiveness of Dr. Shepherd, who is constantly on the alert for the latest and most approved methods of conducting as well as teaching school, from many of the old customs of which he has made radical departures, among them school hours. For years and years, nine a. m. was the hour for commencing the day's work. Imagine the shock to parents, teachers and pupils when this was changed to 8:30 a. m. for many of the primary pupils, which is still maintained in order to accommodate all. The need of room to accommodate all the primary pupils became a serious problem for Dr. Shepherd to solve, which he did in this way: A certain number attended from 8:30 to 10:30, 12:30 to 2:30, while an equal number attended from 10:30 to 12:30, 2:30 to 4:30.

In October, 1921, there were sixty classes with an average of thirty-



five each on part time; the greatest ever, and increasing every day, so that if the erection of two large buildings of the size of No. Twelve were begun at once, they would be more than filled as soon as completed. The problem of supplying every pupil with a seat is serious, requiring careful attention all the time.

The High School, from an enrollment of 375 in October, 1870, reached 11,464 in October 1921, including those in the night school at No. Twelve. The teaching force of six, in old No. One is now 331. Although there are fourteen school buildings, including the High School and old No. Four, the original manual training school, there is need for more accommodations to meet which a new building is being erected in the Second Ward, adjoining the public park, which will scarcely meet the requirements of the growing city.

The following lists contain the names of all superintendents and principals of the various schools to date, and the names of all teachers employed at the present time, together with those of the presidents and secretaries of the Board of Education covering the period from 1899 to date. Previous to this the names of all officers and teachers will be found in the History of Passaic of 1899.

Superintendents—Dr. Henry H. Hutton, 1891-97; Dr. Frank E. Spaulding, 1897-1904; O. I. Woodley, 1904-10; U. G. Wheeler, 1910-14; Dr. Fred S. Shepherd, 1914 to date.

Principals, High School—Rutgers B. Jewett, 1891-95; Sedgwick Mather, 1895-97; Henry H. Hutton, 1897-98; Horace M. Small, 1898-1902; Arthur D. Arnold, 1902 to date.

Principals, School No. 1—(Destroyed by fire, October 6, 1921). Miss Ellie Conenhoven, 1899-1901; Miss Helen L. Speer, 1901-03; Miss Helen Bryce, 1904-March, 1911; Miss Lela G. Brennan, April, 1911-1916, when the building was abandoned.

Principals, School No. 2—Miss Eva T. Seabrook, 1899-1917; Miss Alma L. Smith, 1917 to date.

Principal, School No. 3—Miss Minnie A. Lees, 1899 to date.

Principals, School No. 4—Miss M. E. Berkan, 1899 to 1906; Mr. J. Leroy Stockton, 1906 to 1908; Mr. Charles F. Lodor, 1908 to date.

School No. 5—Miss Lizzie Stephens, 1899 to 1908.

School No. 6—Miss Mayte Sullivan, 1899 to date.

School No. 7—Miss Emma L. Gifford, 1900 to date.

School No. 8—Miss Grace W. Reynolds, 1902 to date.

School No. 9—Miss Helen L. Speer, 1903 to date.

School No. 10—J. L. Stockton, 1908 to 1909; Lauson B. Skidmore, 1909 to 1910; William J. Millar, 1910 to date.

School No. 11—C. F. Lodor, 1910 to date.

School No. 12—Mr. Ray F. Myers, 1916 to September, 1918; Mr. Carl Churchill, January 1919 to 1920; Mr. Louis H. Burch, 1920 to date.

Presidents of Board of Education—Louis B. Carr, 1899-1900; William Magee, 1900-1902; F. A. Barnes, 1902-04; Walter MacCabe, 1904-05; Edwin Flower, 1905-19; Robert Dix Benson, 1919 to date.

Secretaries of Board of Education—Andrew Foulds, 1899-1900; Joseph Mara,





1900-1901; George H. Dalrymple, 1901-03; Charles F. Cowley, 1903-April, 1911; Henry N. Allen, May, 1911-May, 1912; Joseph M. Gardner, Jr., May, 1912, to date.

Each school has regular fire drills to teach all pupils how, in case of fire, to leave the building orderly and quickly. The necessity of this is apparent in the large primary schools among hundreds of little tots, and it was only last October that upon the discovery of a real fire in the basement of School No. Ten, that 1,400 little boys and girls marched in an orderly manner from the building to safety in two minutes' time under the direction of Principal William J. Millar, who showed great skill in his perfect control of so many excited little ones. At this fire there was some little confusion over the bell strokes, regarding which Fire Chief Bowker took occasion to make another strong stand for a uniform fire alarm system for the schools. He said that the alarms now sounded in many of the schools were by the class bells and were distinguished by the number and length of rings. He said that he had suggested before to the Board of Education that a special type bell be secured and used in all the schools with a standardized signal.

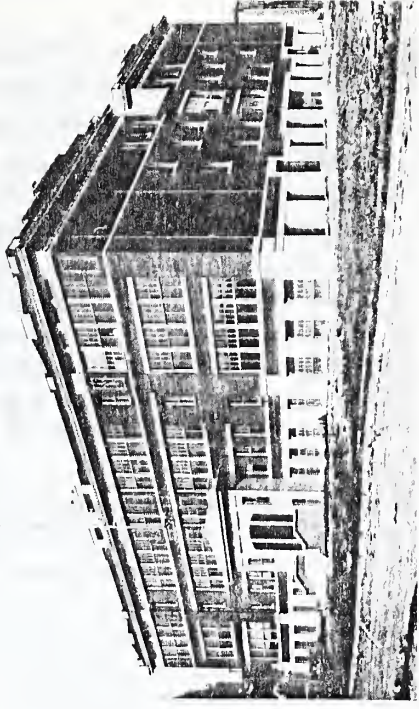
Dr. Shepherd is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Racine, June 4, 1863. He prepared for college at Racine Academy, from which he graduated in 1880, when he entered Beloit College, graduating therefrom in 1884. He began teaching in that year as principal of the High School at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he remained two years, and then became Department Head of Central High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, retaining that position until 1892. Having a desire for higher education, he ceased all activities and entered upon a series of graduate studies. He then attended Chicago University from October, 1892 to April, 1893; University of Berlin, October, 1893 to April, 1895; Sorbonne and College de France, Paris, April to July, 1895; Fellow Political and Social Science, Cornell University, 1895 to 1896; Fellow Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 1896 to 1897. In addition to these he has taken from time to time, since 1897, various professional courses in: Teachers' College, Columbia University, and New York University. Upon completing his course in the University of Pennsylvania he became engaged as Assistant Professor of Economics and Political Science, Adelphi College, Brooklyn, 1897-1899. Being now about thirty-six years of age, he thought himself old enough to have a wife, and on May 11, 1899, was married to his present wife. In the fall of that year he became Superintendent of Schools, Asbury Park, where he remained until he came to Passaic with his wife in 1914. They have only one child, Genevieve E.

Arthur D. Arnold, principal of the High School, was born in Westboro, Mass., January 29, 1871; graduated Westboro High School, class of 1889, valedictorian; graduated from Dartmouth College, 1893, degree of B. A., and in 1896, M. A.; member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity. Special courses in Pedagogy at Harvard, 1895; Dartmouth, 1899; Col-

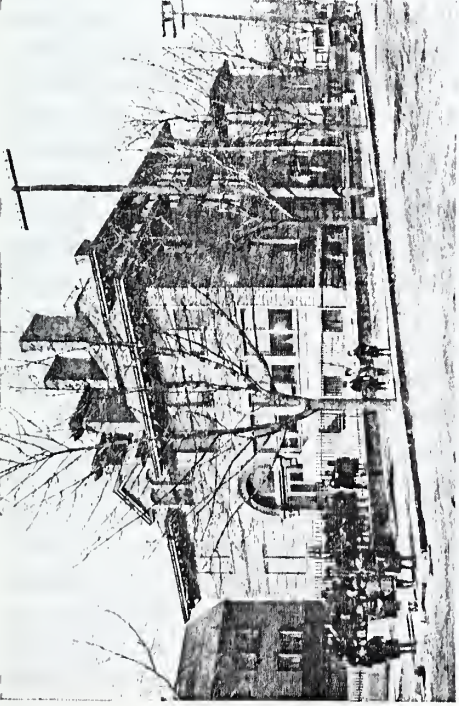




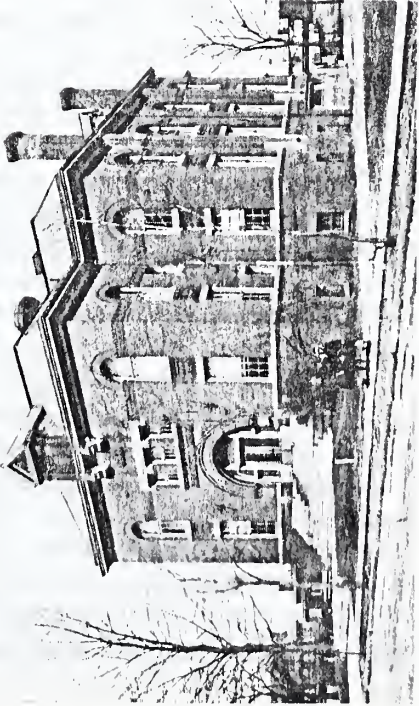
PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 10, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 12, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 9, PASSAIC



PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 11, PASSAIC





umbia, 1903; New York University, 1917-1918, and Rutgers College, 1920. Principal Lincoln (Mass.) High School, 1893-4, one year; instructor in History and Psychology, Mount Hermon School, Mt. Hermon, Massachusetts, 1894-5, one year; principal Stoughton (Mass.) High School, 1895-1902, seven years; principal of Passaic High School, 1902 to present time. President of Passaic Teachers' Association, 1903-1905; president of Passaic Principals' Association, 1921-1922; member of New York Schoolmasters' Club; treasurer of New Jersey High School Teachers' Association; Member of National Education Association; member of F. and A. M., Passaic Lodge No. 67, Centennial Chapter No. Thirty-four; Washington Commandery, No. Twenty-one, Knights Templar; member of First Reformed Church and superintendent of Sunday school, 1903 to 1906.

While he was principal of Passaic High School the enrollment has increased from 170 to 1,178, and the corps of teachers from eighteen to fifty-seven. Mr. Arnold introduced the Department System with department heads, the adviser system, the plan of vocational guidance, the new form of graduation, Senior Night, the new plan of Class Day which is now given in the evening in the Auditorium, Parents' Night, the new school paper, "The Parnassian," which is issued every two weeks, the Senior Class Book, the Dramatics Club and the Athletic Council. Mr. Arnold was the organizer in 1902 of the Boys' Debating Club, whose representatives have been very successful in the inter-scholastic debates, winning two State Championships. The standard in scholarship of Passaic High School is very high, the school being regarded as the best in the State. During the past four years there have been 250 graduates of Passaic High School in higher institutions of learning. Mr. Arnold has two children, a son Vernet, a graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1920, and now a student at Columbia University Law School, and a daughter, Barbara, who is a graduate of Smith College, Class of 1920. Mr. Arnold is responsible for the Honor Rolls, and compiling of the names of 484 present and former students from our public schools who were in the government service in the World War, and for the two bronze tablets, which were unveiled in the High School auditorium on the evening of November 11, 1921.

Although space forbids entering into the various societies and clubs connected with the High School, the editor takes pleasure and pride in recording for the benefit of pupils over the whole world that Passaic's High School has the champion basketball team, which championship title was awarded the team March 16, 1922, after winning eighty-seven straight games without a defeat and the state championship three years in succession. Coach Earnest A. Blood's Passaic High School basketball players have done more than set new world's records which may stand for years, perhaps decades.





Fred S. Shepherd, superintendent of schools; Blanche E. Campbell, elementary supervisor; Helen B. Gover, assistant elementary supervisor.

Directors and Supervisors—Joseph H. Constantine, director industrial education; Ernest A. Blood, physical training; Margaret Langstroth, drawing; Helen B. Arms, assistant drawing; Robert M. Howard, music supervisor; Dorothy McNulty, assistant music; Louise Humphreys, assistant music.

Special and Helping Teachers—William A. Robbins, manual training; Francis N. Bardwell, manual training; Alice R. Tryon, sewing; Grace Barton, sewing; Alma Meyer, sewing and cooking; Louise Farquhar, cooking; \*Theo Burghardt, sewing—on leave of absence until September, 1922; Clifford C. Curtis, mechanical drawing; Frances Tatman, industrial arts.

High School—Arthur D. Arnold, principal; Daniel Dahl, vice-principal—head of science department; Adelaide Mott, secretary; Bertha C. Duncan, English, head until February 1, 1922; \*Edith A. Holton, English, head on leave of absence until February 1, 1922; Frances M. Brown, English, substitute until February 1, 1922; Mary Cavanagh, English; Gertrude Chapel, English; Reba E. Eaton, English; Helen C. Foote, English; Mary T. McGrath, English and public speaking; Ruth H. Thomas, English; Fannie F. Welch, history, head; Frances E. Dales, history; Mary E. Bellows, history; Mabel Merrell, French, head; Elizabeth C. Blair, French, substitute until February 1, 1922; \*Marguerite Carter, French, on leave of absence until February 1, 1922; Lucie I. Davis, French; Florence O. McCaskie, French and Spanish; Mary Card, French and Spanish; Grace G. Littlefield, Spanish, head; Florence Perry, Spanish; Hugh M. Parrish, Latin, head; Maria H. Jones, Latin; Harriet Waters, Latin; Bertha E. Hall, biology; Frances Nixon, chemistry; Alice M. Pierce, general science; Ronald Spinning, physics and chemistry; Margaret F. Woodward, science and mathematics; Mary C. Tracy, mathematics, head; Ellen Steele, mathematics; N. May Stiles, mathematics; Eleanor G. Layton, algebra and arithmetic; O. A. Kennedy, bookkeeping, commercial law, head; Helena Denfeld, bookkeeping, commercial law, arithmetic; Nora C. Bray, arithmetic, penmanship, commercial geography; Anna McNamara, stenography and typewriting; Evelyn Messenger, bookkeeping and penmanship; Jennie T. Rice, stenography and typewriting; Ida M. Sherwood, stenography and typewriting; Viola M. Stokes, stenography and commercial arithmetic; Clinton H. Bonney, English, civics and problems of American Democracy; Flora M. Koch, civics, problems of American Democracy; Marian N. Race, civics, problems of American Democracy; Marion B. Bartlett, physical training; C. Raymond Pickett, physical training; Amasa A. Marks, physical training; Rachel Supple, physical training; Leonore Stephens, fine arts; Margaret Lockhart, domestic art; R. F. McCarthy, pattern making and mechanical drawing.

No. Two School—Alma L. Smith, principal; Amelia Fierstien, teacher-clerk; Clara Hamilton, 6A; Persis Glad, 6B; Ella Appert, 5A; Margretta Condie, 5B; M. Louise Ablamowicz, 4A; Mary Dwyer, 4A; Eileen W. Powers, 4B; Isabel Wall, 4B; Katherine Barrett, 3A; Ruth Jencks, 3B; Elizabeth Neill, 3B; Marie E. Duffy, 2A; Helen Cosgrove, 2A; Helen Small, 2B; Mabel Enslin, 1B; Esther J. Moore, 2B; Catherine Bunnell, 2B; Ruth M. Gammons, 1A; Doris Rice, 1A; May Hees, 1B; Sarah Phelps, 1B; Bernice Phillips, 1B; Helen Orre, kindergarten; Frances Trautman, kindergarten; Margaret Blaiklock, 2B.

No. Three School—Minnie A. Lees, principal; Elsie G. Smith, teacher-clerk; Elizabeth Trimmer, 8A; Mary E. Glasheen, 8B; Edna Yarrington, 7A; Sophie B. Breck, 7A; Martha M. H. Strachan, 7B; Emily Kruse, 6A; Katherine A. Dey, 6B; Synthia A. Doane, 5A; Clara McFaddin, 5B; May A. Putnam, 4A; Vera G. Mingo, 4A; Helen G. Ward, 4B; Beatrice Winne, 3A; Anna M. Goodnow, 3B; Margaret



B. Stewart, 2A; Alice A. McNamara, 2B; Vera Baldwin, 2B; Edna J. Walling, 1A; Mary White, 1B; Laura E. Bonitz, kindergarten.

No. Four School—Florence Lyon, 5A; Lucile Proctor, 5B; Helen Andre, 4A; Dorothy Post, 4A; Florence Cooper, 4B; Effa E. Plumb, 4B; Caroline D. Fowler, 3A; Mary H. Leech, 3B; Ida E. Clark, 3B; Helen K. Alexander, 2A; Jessie Kistler, 2A; May Farrell, 2B; Emma J. Moore, 2B; Anna Fitzgerald, 1A; Gladys Ackerman, 1A; Kathleen J. Dyer, 1B; Mabel Walling, 1B; Marion Pickett, 1B; Geraldine Demarest, kindergarten; Mary A. Streckfuss, kindergarten.

No. Four Annex—Shirley Clark, 6A; Ella H. Still, 6A; Harriet Schroeder, 6B; Carolyn P. Oliver, 6B.

No. Eleven School—\*Charles F. Lodor, principal; \*E. Winifred Schmitz, vice-principal. (\*Principal and vice-principal respectively of School No. Four and Four Annex.) Margaret Overacre, clerk; Elizabeth Behler, 8A; Ethel Coker, 8A; Elizabeth Lodor, 8B and 8A; M. Louise Van Nostrand, 8B; M. Grace McNaney, 8B; Lue H. Richardson, 7A; Rachel Carmer, 7A; Mary E. Durfee, 7A; Harriet Titcomb, 7B; Margaret Bryce, 7B; Helen T. Chaplin, 7B; Sara L. Reynolds, 7B.

No. Five School—Elsie H. Crawford, head, atypical class; Henrietta M. Jahn, atypical class; Fannie A. Bolles, atypical class; Mary E. DeVanna, atypical class; Mary F. Bogia, atypical class; Irene Lapp, atypical class.

No. Six School—Mayte Sullivan, principal; Ellen Kane, teacher-clerk; Anna Callaghan, 6A; Eva Waldron, 6B; Margaret Staats, 6B; Genevieve Cox, 5B; Gertrude Taylor, 5A; Isabel Haggerty, 5B; Mary McGuire, 4A; Alva Rosene, 4B; Charlotte Kerr, 3A and 4B; Clara Carty, 3A; Gertrude Vreeland, 3B; Elizabeth MacFarlane, 3B; Irene Mahoney, 2A; Ruth Fowle, 2A; Eleanor Murphy, 2B; Bessie DeWitt, 2B; Esther Conroy, 1A; Mary Gavin, 1A; Laura Carty, 1B; Irene Haigh, 1B; Marian Knight, 1B; Alice Tyndall, kindergarten; Florence Vennema, kindergarten.

No. Seven School—Emma L. Gifford, principal; Sarah Considine, vice-principal; Frances Galanti, 6A; Bessie E. Trapp, 6A and 6B; Louise H. Saunders, 6B; Jennie E. Hill, 6B; Belle Katschovsky, 5A; Harriet H. Crowell, 5A; Hazel B. Butler, 5B; Marguerite Hahn, 5B; Margaret Proche, 5B; Bessie Soli, 5B; Marjorie N. Wilson, 4A; Emma Beglinger, 4A; Grace Beverly, 4B; Edith M. Pike, 4B; Annette Kaplan, 4B; Kathryn Howarth, 3A; Mildred Schlender, 3A; Anna Kramer, 3B; Thelma E. Vinal, 3B; Florence A. Thompson, 3B; Marjorie Arnold, 2A; Juliette M. King, 2A; Elsie L. Barber, 2B; Adelaide Holbert, 2B; Henrietta E. Drake, 2B; Florence Hodgdon, 2B and 1A; Mildred Frank, 1A; Agnes Hodge, 1A; Florence L. Dolan, 1B; Catherine H. Roe, 1B; May H. Hancy, 1B; Phyllis Peak, 1B; M. Lois Coons, kindergarten; Janet P. Allen, kindergarten.

No. Eight School—Grace W. Reynolds, principal; Keene B. Male, vice-principal; Ursula M. Bowman, 6A; Caroline J. Brokaw, 6B; Mary C. Wilson, 5A; Hazel M. Lyon, 5B; Gertrude F. Boffard, 5B; Nettie Spears, 4A; Spohia A. Carty, 4B; Clara K. Howell, 3A; Marjorie Aldous, 3B; Elizabeth Webb, 3B; Agnes Kales, 2A; Dorothy Davis, 2B; Tillie V. Grinwis, 2B; Esther Greenberg, 2B; Helen S. Banker, 1A; Ella Florance, 1A; Gattis T. Bongers, 1B; Grace Greenlie, 1B; Stella M. Schnell, 1B; Blanche G. Lee, 1B; Mabel Hawkins, kindergarten; Hazel White, kindergarten; Mary E. Grant, 4B.

No. Nine School—Helen L. Speer, principal; Helen G. Obdyke, teacher-clerk; Pearl H. Brown, 6A; Etta A. Anderson, 6B; Alice E. Weber, 5A; Celia Saffron, 5B; Jeanette Fitch, 4A; Marguerite F. Sullivan, 4B; Antoinette Frazer, 3A; Helene M. Larkin, 3B; Myrtle H. Edwards, 2A; Henrietta Stagg, 2A; Henrietta F. Byam, 2B; Doris Palmer, 2B; Marion E. Miller, 1A; Ethel K. Montgomery, 1B; Mary I. Dibble, 1B; Lillian E. Tornqvist, kindergarten; Dorothy McBride, kindergarten.





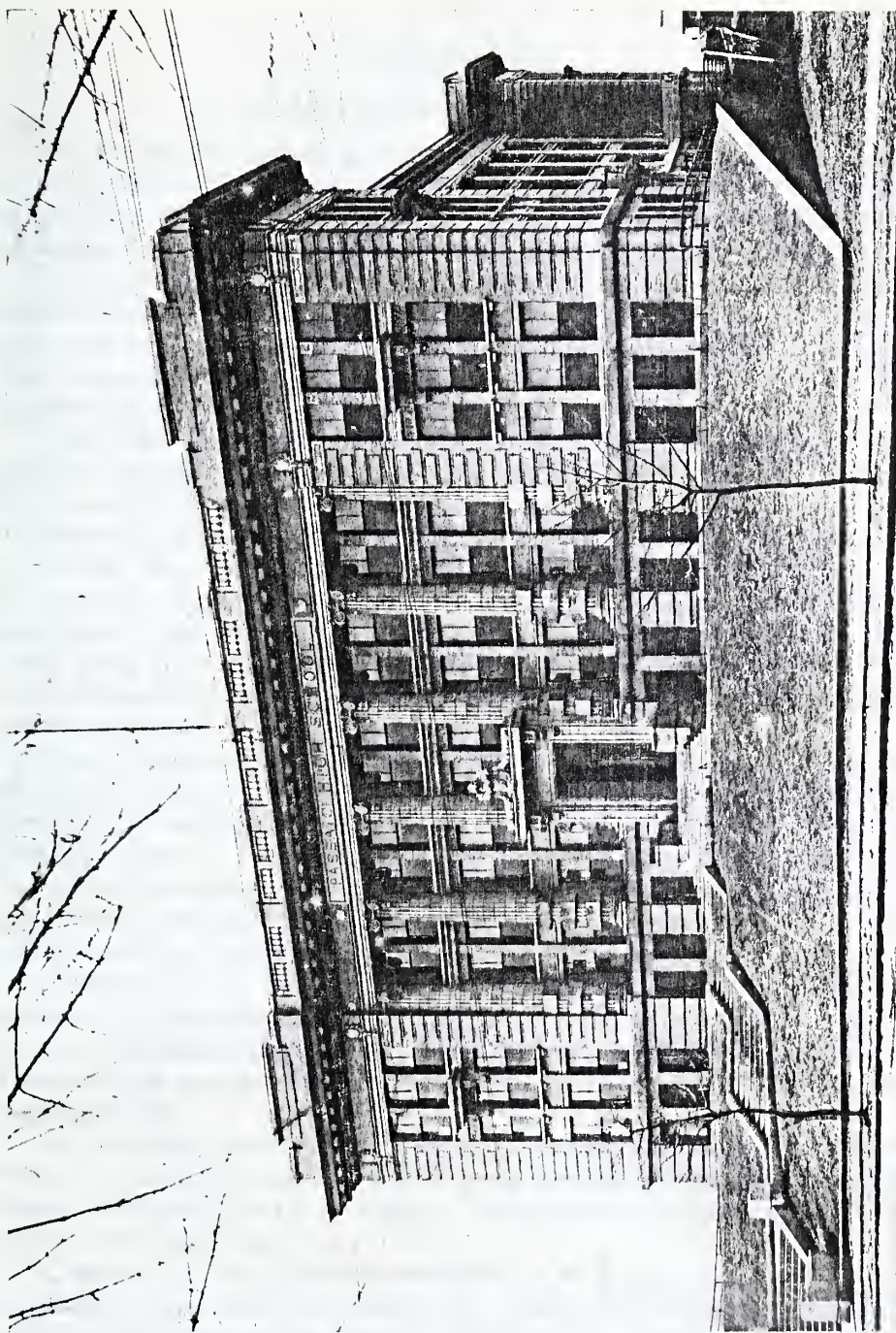
No. Ten School—William J. Millar, principal; Hilda Jellison, vice-principal; Ida Porte, teacher-clerk; Dorothy M. Marshall, 5B and 5A; Claire Donahue, 7B; Edna Farrell, 6A; Lucille Sharpe, 6A and 5B; Edith Atkinson, 6B; Leila Fairchild, 6B; Gertrude Wright, 6B and 5A; Clara L. Davis, 5A; Cecelia Farrell, 5A; Helen Chapell, 2A; Mary Dunn, 5B; Marion Church, 5B; Miriam Mansfield, 4A; Helen Walsh, 4A; A. Evelyn Campbell, 4A; Catherine Mooney, 4B; Madge E. Nickerson, 4B; Emma McWilliams, 3A; Edith Davison, 3A; Norma Beal, 3B; Blanche Burch, 3B; Inez Silvernail, 2A; Annie Furvoll, 2A; Maud Naslund, 2B; Emma I. Myler, 2B; Reta Healy, 2B; Jessie Bristow, 1A; Laura White, 1B; Helen Annis, 1B; Anne L. DeBaun, kindergarten; Lillian Turner, kindergarten; Elizabeth Murphy, industrial arts; Mabel M. Baird, industrial arts; Judith McQuillen, music; Louise Edson, music and literature; Edith Wood, science; Reuben Bramson, gymnasium; Edna Rumsey, gymnasium; Emma Kroll, auditorium; Madeline Horder, auditorium.

No. Twelve School—Louis H. Burch, principal; S. Margaret Crisman, vice-principal; Grace L. Stafford, first assistant; Helen E. Richardson, unassigned; Anna M. Millwood, clerk; Cora Rosenkrans, 8A; Jennie M. Stark, 8A; Dorothy G. Marcus, 8A and 8B; Ella Baxter, 8B; Florence Shaw, 8B; Catherine Albright, 8B; Helen C. Baker, 8B; Helen C. Glancy, 8B and 7A; \*Ada A. Schoonmaker, 7A and 8B, on leave of absence until September, 1922; Louise F. McCann, 7A; Florence B. Childs, 7A; Alice E. Brevoort, 7A; Rose I. Stone, 7A; Florence Vredenburg, 7B; Ethel Corbett, 7B; Helen Chapman, 7B; Nora Mahaney, 6A; Genevieve Murphy, 6B and 5A; Rose Kelly, 5B; Julia Horton, 4A; Madeleine Courtney, 4B; Ethel D. Hart, 4B; Mary I. Williams, 3A; Ethel Corcoran, 3A; Gertrude Miller, 3B; Esther Litchfield, 3B; Esther Gregory, 2A; Bessie Rochlin, 2B; Bertha M. Daley, 2B; Ida L. Marine, 1A; Ada J. Esping, 1A, on leave of absence until February 1, 1922; Mildred Pease, 1A; May P. Pattillo, 1B; Emilie F. DeVoe, 1B; Marion Smith, kindergarten; Theresa M. Joyce, kindergarten; Genevieve Walts, vocal; Lucy B. Lunt, vocal; Mabel Marshall, music; Miriam Benatar, music; Ruth Riley, drawing; Matthias S. Miller, mechanical drawing; Helen A. Miller, science; Margaret V. Holpp, cooking; Frances Chase, cooking; Mary M. Hunt, sewing; Adolf Homberg, textile; George R. Mee, Woodwork; Willard M. Elliott, machine shop; Charlotte B. MacLean, industrial arts; Emily E. Walker, auditorium; George W. Ogden, printing; Nellie Totten, auditorium; Josephine Horstman, physical training; Eliza B. Binns, physical training; Harold Regan, physical training; Charles Schleckser, physical training.

Continuation School—Jennie Benjamin, cooking and academic; Helen Bowden, academic; Leo T. Hickson, academic; James Hurley, academic; Ernest Lea, shop and mathematics; Marion C. Mason, sewing; Olive L. Rish, academic; Ethel M. Shoemaker, sewing and academic; Ethel Williams, academic; Ollo A. Kennedy (part time) academic, baking and accounting; Ida M. Sherwood (part time), academic, stenography, typewriting; Anita Hepworth, clerk.

Unassigned—Clara J. Currie.





HIGH SCHOOL, PASSAIC





## CHAPTER L.

### PASSAIC'S MODERN INDUSTRIES.

If diversity of industries were a virtue Passaic would have the sum of all of them. Slender silk, stout railroad cars, scales that weigh automatically by the ounce or ton, hose for my lady and hose to fight fire or sprinkle the good green lawn are some of our industrial extremes.

And, amazing as it may seem, we produce in this city every day one million pocket handkerchiefs ranging in quality from the finest silk to the coarsest cotton. Half of all the handkerchiefs made in the United States are made here, and we have a practical monopoly of the native production of the far too rare Irish linen "glad rag."

When the Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, while serving as Secretary of the United States Treasury Department, came here as the chief guest of the Board of Trade at its annual banquet, he was taken to the Botany Worsted Mills to get at least a glimpse of what we do in wool here.

In the show-room maintained for trade purposes he saw not only the choicest of men's wear but dress goods for the fair sex so light, gay and gauzy that he mistook it for silk. This stuff, as he learned, was made from Botany Bay wool by the Botany mill, and printed in colors as unchangeable as the tiger's spots by the Manhattan Print Works, also of our town.

The Brighton Mills produce the cotton fabric for the best and most expensive automobile tires made in the world, and the Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing Company makes automobile tires of the finest type. Rubber goods—a hundred years ago the world was unacquainted with the industry—today the myriad of useful and indispensable articles made from rubber, barks enumeration, and Passaic has mills in which every variety is produced.

Cotton finishing in which Reid & Barry were the pioneers, is one of our chief industries and every kind of it is done here. It is said that the art of making Khaki cloth, used now for uniforming soldiers, was first evolved and successfully developed by James Bryce, one of Peter Reid's pupils.

No historical reference to Passaic industries would be complete without a tribute to our first and most successful industrial Captains, Peter Reid and Henry A. Barry. Theirs was the first big industrial plant established here.

Cans for all the Colgate cosmetics as well as compressed food for soldiers in the field are made by Isaac W. England. Ex-Mayor Andrew McLean makes mosquito netting for home and tropical consumption by the billion yards.

The rubber industries, the Gera, Forstmann & Huffmann, and





kindred mills, the handkerchief factories and the print works, all grew up as though by magic; until today, within the corporate limits of Passaic, there are eighty manufacturing industries, while the surrounding and adjacent territory of Garfield, Clifton and Delawanna add over thirty large and small to the list.

The population on the east side of the track—the life and pulse of our city—the Irish, the German, Slav and Hungarian, with the thrifty Hebrew becoming merged with and moulded into American citizens under our laws and our flag, tell the story more graphically than any historian can picture it.

The diversity of our industries is, in large measure, the secret of our success. No matter how panicky the business world may be, there is always something doing here. As proof of this it should be noted that during the panic of 1893 and '94, when every industrial community in the Eastern States found it necessary to establish soup-houses, we had none here and no need for any then nor since.

Prosperity has certainly found an abiding place here, and while we still have our resident and commuter population, it is gradually but surely being overshadowed by our importance as a great industrial center. We are no longer the home of the New York business man, but a manufacturing city, destined to become one of the most important in the State and the nation.

#### THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN PASSAIC

Amongst the various important industries which the City of Passaic harbors, the most important from the standpoint of capital invested, labor employed, and value of product, is unquestionably the textile industry, and in this large and varied group of manufactures the wool and worsted branch predominates. The old home for this industry in our country is in the New England States, especially Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island, and even today the manufacture of these goods is larger in these three States than in the balance of the United States combined.

Industries are not easily transplanted from one part of the country to another, and in such cases where it happens to any large extent there must be good and substantial reason for such happening. The manufacturing of cotton goods is a case in point. While this industry also had its home originally in the Eastern States and is still located there to a great extent, a large part has migrated to the Southern States. This happened after the Civil War, for the obvious reason that factories in the South are nearer the base of supply of raw materials used and plenty of labor can be obtained in this part of the country for plain woven staple fabrics. Such cotton fabrics, however, as require very skilled labor in the spinning of fine threads and in weaving fancy designs are still almost exclusively produced in the East, where the industry started.



In wool and worsted manufacturing the transplanting of the industry from the Eastern States has been more diversified. The States of designs are still almost exclusively produced in the East, where the industry started.

New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have had a fair share for many years, and even in the Middle West this industry is scattered. The City of Passaic has also had some woolen industries as far back as from thirty to forty years ago, but it has remained for the last twenty years to bring about the movement on a large scale to establish manufacturing of this kind in the City of Passaic, the protective policy of this period having induced domestic and foreign capital to erect factories in this country and in locating they were free to choose most any locality which seemed suitable for their undertaking.

The large Botany Worsted Mills, established in 1889, were the pioneers in this respect. And the development of this mammoth plant is proof enough that the location of Passaic was wisely chosen. This well-governed city with abundant room to grow; the Passaic River water so well adapted for the washing and dyeing of wool materials; and especially the proximity to the City of New York, were probably the main factors which led to the location of this great industry in Passaic.

There is probably no other place in the world where the worsted and woolen industry has an opportunity to deliver its products to the principal distribution points of the country in such a short time as it is the case in Passaic relating to New York.

Auto trucks are able to deliver from factory to consumer within one hour and the opportunity to deliver special orders in quick time is a great advantage.

It is a well-known fact that a successful industry attracts others of the same nature to the same place. So has Paterson its silk mills, Pittsburg its iron industry, and Trenton its pottery, and so on. The growth of the textile industries in Passaic during the last decade has been phenomenal and almost unprecedented. While the wool and woolen industry predominates, cotton mills have also located here, and the establishment of two large plants in this line gives hope that it may extend still further in the near future. The capital invested in these textile industries is over fifteen million dollars and there are over ten thousand hands who find employment in the mills. There is no doubt that these industries are still further greatly to be developed in the future, and with the cleaning of the Passaic River and the establishing of a trunk sewer in sight, this city certainly offers unusual opportunities, which are, to say the least, exceeded in no other part of the country.

On March 27, 1922, the stockholders of the New Jersey Worsted Spinning Company of Garfield, at a meeting in the offices of the company, voted unanimously in favor of consolidating with the Gera Mills of Passaic. In this manner the New Jersey Worsted Company was





formed in April, 1922, by combining the Gera Mills of this city with the New Jersey Worsted Spinning Company of Garfield, both old established successful business concerns, with large mills employing thousands of hands. The new company will manufacture as well as spin. Each mill will be run separately as heretofore—one in Passaic the other in Garfield.

Passaic has more than three dozen large manufacturing and commercial industries, each numbering its operatives by the thousands; scores of smaller concerns whose workers run into the hundreds, besides a great many employing from half dozen employees up.

The great Botany Mills is the largest worsted industry of its kind and supports, by and through its operatives, a city of at least twenty thousand inhabitants. The company conducted its business wholly in Liepsic, Germany, until by the ruling of our Treasury department, worsted was declared to be wool, the high tariff upon which compelled removal to this country and the selection of Passaic as the place for conducting business. Through the efforts of Mr. Harry Aspell, now military secretary of General Bird W. Spencer, the works were located here. Prosperity began at the start and has continued to this day. During our war with Germany, the works were taken over by the United States government, because most of the capital stock was owned by the Stoehr family, enemy aliens, but business was continued under a government board of directors who at this writing are in control. In the meanwhile and since peace was declared the works have been re-acquired by the former owners, to whom possession is expected to be given before July 1, 1922. Worsted of all kinds is manufactured here.

Forstmann & Huffmann Company is next of importance and size to the Botany. It has a large mill in the Robertsford section of Garfield as well as the one in Passaic, each covering several acres. The company, like the Botany, manufactures the finest of cloth, well known over the world. Success has been the reward since its very commencement which continues.

In cotton goods manufacture the two largest are the Passaic Cotton Mills and the Brighton Mills, the former having only recently located here in a large four-story brick mill built especially for this business.

The Brighton Mill has been here for about fifteen years, and became so prosperous as to require additional room which was acquired at Allwood, a mile away, where mill buildings were erected and a miniature village laid out and established through the civic pride and progressive spirit of Mr. William Lyall, the head of the concern. These employ thousands.

In the rubber (hard and soft) industry Passaic has several large mills. The New York Belting and Packing Company, Limited, established itself here, simply as an annex to the larger mill at Newton, Conn., just forty years ago, and became so prosperous as to be con-



pelled to treble its plant recently, which today covers nearly two solid city blocks. Upon its site its founder, John H. Cheever, then a large stockholder and president of the Dundee Water-Power and Land Company, located and started the New York Steam Engine Works in 1870, but the great panic of 1873 compelled him to close up and sell out in 1875.

In 1872 Mr. Cheever, believing in the future of rubber, laid the foundations (in stone work) of the present Okonite Mill. But the 1873 panic put a stop to further activities for fifteen years, at the end of which time the present factory was erected on the old foundation.

The company makes, by far, the finest insulated wire and submarine cables in the world, which have been accorded medals of honor at the most noted of the world's expositions since and including 1889.

In 1892, H. Cazenove Jones, an expert in rubber, who had been Mr. Cheever's confidential man at the head of the business of the latter, was forced out of the mill here when the same passed into other hands, and he immediately organized the Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing Company, which attained most surprising success from the start and whose growth has been so big as to require several good sized city blocks to accommodate today its ever increasing trade. It has already become one of the large industries of the city, employing several thousand operatives night and day.

In the manufacture of chemicals, Passaic can boast of two large concerns: General Chemical Company, formerly the Dundee, and the Lodi Chemical Company Works, succeeding the former Butterworth & Son, established forty years ago. Jacques Wolff & Company, established by Mr. Wolff in a small way fifteen years ago, now grown to large proportions. Having made a fortune he retired and last year went to his old home in Germany to enjoy it. The Newport Chemical Works, one of several of that name in this country, located here in 1920 and erected a factory, where they have prospered beyond expectations. There are several small concerns with prospects of success and big development.

In the work of printing, dyeing and finishing cotton and linen, the Passaic Print Works is the oldest in the city, having been founded as the Locke Print Works by Mr. William H. Locke in 1870.

Moses E. Worthen, who was conducting the Manhattan Print Works in New York City, removed to Passaic. Associated with him was William P. Aldrich.

They also conducted works at Soho, until burned out. Later, and in 1895, they established extensive works at the present Delawanna, known as the Waldrich Bleachery, where an ample water supply affords great advantages.

The American Piece Dye Works and the Liberty Piece Dyeing and Finishing Company are of more recent formation. They are proving successful and bid fair to rival the older establishments.





The Paterson Parchment Paper Company, manufacturers of waxed and allied papers, have a large plant on Eighth street, from which there is sent out enough of its products to supply the world. At least so it appears to one not familiar with the business.

Next door is the extensive plant of the J. L. Prescott Company, which daily ships freight car and auto truck loads of the famous stove polish and shoe shine manufactured here and, like parchment paper, shipped all over the world.

When it comes to doing a merciful act, Andrew McLean Company leads the world in the manufacture of mosquito netting to protect suffering humanity from the stings and arrows of the pests.

The Pitkin Worsted Company succeeds Pitkin & Holdsworth Company, established in the old Rittenhouse Mill about thirty years ago, whence removal was had in 1895 to the premises just at the city's northerly line, in Clifton.

The Pantasote (artificial) Leather Company is one of a very few manufacturers of an article more beautiful and lasting than real leather and used for limitless purposes that are increasing every year.

The Portable Machinery Company Incorporated, of Passaic, New Jersey, was incorporated in 1917 for the purpose of manufacturing and marketing a portable material handling conveyor, known as the Scoop Conveyor. The officers of the company are, namely: Jere L. Wentz, president; Cyrus A. Bryant, secretary; Frank R. Allen, treasurer; Charles M. Lindsay, first vice-president; and William H. Trowbridge, second vice-president.

The Scoop Conveyor was designed and perfected by Jere L. Wentz, the first machine being constructed by him early during the year of 1915, at his home, No. 245 Paulison avenue, in the city of Passaic. This same machine was later moved from his home to the garage of John J. O'Leary, No. 257 Paulison avenue, where it was first put to test under limited working conditions, and after a number of changes and adjustments had been made it was moved into the coal yard of William A. O'Brien, located near the freight station of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, in the city of Passaic. Here the Scoop Conveyor was tested under practical working conditions in loading coal from ground storage into wagons for delivery. After additional tests, experiments, and changes in construction had been made, it was found that the Scoop Conveyor would load one ton of coal from ground storage into wagons, in less than two minutes.

In 1916 a number of photographs were executed showing the Scoop Conveyor in operation, and copies of these photographs were sent to leading American manufacturing concerns. The first order came from the Chase Metal Company of Waterbury, Connecticut. Immediately after the receipt of this order, Mr. Wentz rented a small floor space in





the Foxhall Mill, or better known as the old Whip Factory, located in the Second Ward Park, city of Passaic.

After constructing the first machine for commercial use, Mr. Wentz brought the merits of the Scoop Conveyor to the attention of leading Passaic manufacturers, who were among the first to adopt it. Some twenty odd machines were constructed by Mr. Wentz personally, and upon the strength of this initial beginning the Portable Machinery Company was organized early in 1917. The demand for the Scoop Conveyor rapidly increased, and late in the same year the company moved to larger quarters at No. 25 Park Place, city of Passaic, where they continued during 1918. Here the Company started to manufacture other material handling equipment in addition to the Scoop Conveyor, and they were again compelled to secure larger quarters. Accordingly they moved to the buildings known as the Reid and Barry Mills, at the foot of Canal street, in the Dundee district of the city of Passaic. After manufacturing here for a period of about one year, it became apparent that additional space would soon be required, and early in 1920 the Company secured a tract of land in the city of Clifton, at the corner of Clifton and Lakeview avenues, where they have recently erected a modern factory building containing the necessary machinery for the practical manufacture of their various products. A photographic view of the office and factory accompany this article.



## CHAPTER LI

### FOREIGN POPULATION

Passaic was settled by the Dutch, who remained not only in control but the sole inhabitants for a century, cultivating the farms and conducting stores, shops, taverns and stage wagons. The dominie, school-master, doctor, squire, judge, constable, assessor and collector of taxes were Dutch. Conversation was also Dutch, as was their reading matter, which consisted of a large Bible, psalm book, catechism, and at intervals, a pamphlet or book on religious or moral subjects, brought from Amsterdam, with an almanac.

The first intruders were Irish, who came here to work—some on the docks, and some on farms. Later a few Germans settled here upon little farms which they purchased for and cultivated as truck gardens. The Irish were poor and unable to purchase. To be sure, the colored man or African was here, being coeval with the Dutch, with whom he came in 1680, but being only a slave was not considered as anything more than a chattel to be bought, exchanged or sold, as such, but as a human being was never considered.

This vicinity remained purely a farming community with Passaic as the commercial and business center, without any change in the nationality of its settlers, until 1831, when the construction of the Erie railroad brought a score of Irish families, nearly all of whom remained and settled here, a number continuing to serve the railroad for years. Many of them had been employed in the digging of the Morris canal, 1825-1831, and when that was completed went to work for the Erie Railway Company.

The year 1836 witnessed the greatest real estate craze ever known in this vicinity, before or since. One Thomas Lloyd, from Bellville, came here then, purchased all the land from the railroad to Second street, extending along the railroad to near Jefferson street, of which a large map was made and filed showing streets, blocks and lots, entitled, "Map of Lots in Passaic City, formerly Paterson Landing." (This, by the way, is the first application of *Passaic* to this city). But before Lloyd sold a lot, the great panic of 1837 swept down, carried away the real estate bubble and the land was re-conveyed to the original owners, who resumed their plowing, sowing and reaping until 1860, when the Dundee Water Power and Land Company constructed the water power canal and other works of a permanent character under the supervision of Joseph Scott, which brought many more of the Irish race, who settled here.

Gradually mills were established, drawing hither mostly the better class of English and Scotch skilled mechanics, a number of Irish and a





very few Germans. By 1879 laborers were hard to find, and it was then that Mr. George B. Waterhouse, of Waterhouse Brothers, shoddy manufacturers, conceived the idea of employing untrained-in-mill-work raw foreigners, and it was by and through him that the first Slavish people came to Passaic from Hungary.

In December, 1879, Mr. Waterhouse personally brought from Castle Garden to Passaic, the following: 1. Andrew Pastor (from Velky-Saris Sariska, Stolica). Velky-Saris meant big city of the district of Sariska, in the state of Stolica. 2. John Socha (from Shanusovec, Sariska, Stolica). 3. John Pochlod (from Soli, Zemplinska, Stolica). 4. John Kostisin (from Prosaco, Sariska, Stolica). 5. George Slivka (from Zbreczovici, Sariska, Stolica). 6. John Salasovic (from Zmihalovec, Zemplinska, Stolica). 7. Edward Geiger (from Svlahov, Spiska, Stolica). Six months later there came to Passaic from New York, Stephen F. Cherepy and Frank Drombly, both from Velky, Saria, Sariska, Stolica.

These men first started to work in the Waterhouse Mill, and afterwards were employed by Rittenhouse Company, in the Ammidown Mill. Mr. Danko was night weaving foreman in this mill, and during his administration many foreigners were taught and learned weaving, which drew other immigrants to Passaic from Austria, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, etc. All the men named above are now dead, excepting Stephen F. Cherepy and Andrew Pastor.

It would be hard to find a class of men who appreciated the benefits of American advantages more than these men, who were thrilled with the prospects offered to them. In a recent conversation with the editor, and in answer to the question as to what was the inducement to come here, Mr. Cherepy answered "money," which came about through a friend who, after working a few years in this country, returned to Sariska Stolica with his pockets filled with money, who told them he was getting about two dollars for work which Cherepy was receiving only as many pennies for. It did not take them long to get to this wonderful country. Everyone came determined to work hard, and practice frugality, which they did, becoming some of the best of Passaic's citizens, of which they maintained great pride.

About eight years later, the mighty Magyar people also belonging to Hungary, began to come here. The first to set foot in Passaic was Mr. Yarmulovsky, who resided in Dundee many years, and later in Wallington, where he died. He dealt in cattle. The second Magyar to come here was Stephen Pastor, in 1888. These seem to have been the leaders of the foreign invaders, whose report of success here, and of the great opportunities offered to any man who was willing to work was sent home, where the good news, to the great hordes that looked with longing eyes to a fairer and better land, was spread far and wide, particularly among men of unskilled labor—farm hands mostly.

But the hordes of unskilled laborers did not arrive until shortly



after the Botany Worsted Mills began operations in 1890, opening the door to not only men and boys, but women and girls, who were numbered by the thousands, and while they at the outset had no knowledge of mill work, they soon acquired great skill, equal to that of the best trained hands. Thirty years ago the Botany mill girl was a much noted person, and because of her display in dress was often derided, as may be seen in the following song popular at that time:

"THE BOTANY MILL GIRLS"

(Air—"He Never Cares to Wander.")

This world is made up of all sorts, each one thinks he is best,  
We often judge our neighbors by the style in which they're dressed.  
Society belles in Central Park, parade in gorgeous style,  
But see our Botany Mill parade, I'll bet it makes you smile.

CHORUS

I always like to ramble by the Botany Mills,  
To see the fresh arrivals as they come,  
They're as happy as can be, in the country rich and free,  
They never think of "home, sweet home."

You will find the "Lady of Lyons" there, and the "Maid of Athens," too.  
The Bohemian girl, gypsy maid and the "dark girl dressed in blue,"  
And Cinderellas by the score with their hob-nailed number nines—  
Hungarians, Poles and Russians, Jews of a hundred different kind.

See the German girl with head erect, she walks with queenly grace,  
And there's a petite French damsel with a round, sweet, smiling face.  
The Jewess, too, with dark, bright eye and plump, well-rounded form,  
If the Jewish race was cursed I think the curse has done no harm.

Now hustle, boys, don't lose your time, look round and choose thy schatz,  
She will soon save your money, you'll soon be buying lots.  
The Scheeny is a dandy, at saving there's none such.  
And still I don't know if she beats the money-grabbing Dutch.

Many other mills soon followed the Botany, until at the present time the operatives in the mills are composed of this class, including Austrians, Hungarians, Magyars, Lithuanians, Poles, Czecho-Slovaks, Russians, Jews, and the several divisions of Slavs and those of other nations. Strange as it may seem, very few Jews work in the mills, the most of them having preference for store work. The great majority of Jews are from Russia, and a smaller number from Hungary. They are said to cherish contempt for each other, and have few dealings with each other.

The coming of these peoples was felt at once. Usually their families were large, whereby they were able to earn much money, which was invested in lots and houses erected, being put up by the hundreds, that made the city famous for rapid growth, which amounted to over one hundred per cent in one decade. In addition to the building of homes, they were responsible for the erection of several of the finest and largest church edifices of the city. This does not refer to Jews, who although financially able, have not put their money in beautiful temples of stone or brick, being satisfied with temples more like those of the





time of Moses. Nor does it include Italians, very few of whom work in mills, preferring outside laborer's work, in which they are equal to the Irish, who for many years were peers in that line.

POPULATION.

To the population of Passaic there should be added the population of Clifton's entire Fourth ward, parts of her First and Fifth wards, separated by an imaginary line from Passaic, whose unlimited advantages and attractions, which have been heralded abroad, brought to her domain, not to Clifton, many thousands, who, for lack of accommodations in Passaic, located in what to them was not Clifton, but Passaic, to which should belong the entire Fourth ward. If the population of these sections only are added, it would make not less than 85,000 as the real population of Passaic today, and if she had possessed a wide awake and alert body of men in 1916 she would not have been deprived of her very own, which she must yet acquire. Her domain should extend to the Dundee Dam, which her men made possible years ago.

It is now too late, as a recent law makes it necessary to obtain the consent not of the taxpayers, who want part of Clifton annexed to Passaic but of the Clifton council, which refuses to accede to the wish of the taxpayers. When the law, placed by stealth on the statute books, is repealed, as it is certain to be, there will be annexation to Passaic.

Population by decades:

1870 .....	3,103	1900 .....	27,777
1880 .....	6,513	1910 .....	54,770
1890 .....	13,027	1921 .....	72,500

At the date of this writing, the editor is informed by the Director of the 14th (1920) United States census, "that it will be some time before any detailed statistics are available," hence it becomes necessary for the editor to compile an approximate census of our foreign population in the fall of 1921, based on the official census of 1919-20, which give the total population as 63,824.

Polish, composed of Austrians,		Jews: Austrian, Hungarian and	
Germans and Russians .....	17,462	Russian .....	5,878
Canadians and French .....	200	Turks .....	25
English and Scotch .....	2,138	All others, Chinese, Swiss, Japanese, Mexicans and Indians...	225
Germans .....	2,500	Total foreign population.....	47,868
Greeks .....	50	Total native population.....	15,956
Hollanders .....	2,500		63,824
Czecho-Slovaks from Hungarian countries: Slovaks, 7,400; Magyar, 4,000 .....	9,400	Of which the percentage is:	
Irish and Welsh .....	2,200	Foreign—74½ per cent. (The greatest of any city in the United States).	
Italians .....	5,000	Native—25½ per cent.	
Norwegians and Swedes .....	300		

Illiteracy in Passaic is decreasing, says a report just issued by the Bureau of Census in Washington, which states there are 5,513 persons ten years of age and over who could not write when the 1920 census was taken.





The percentage of illiteracy among persons here, over nine years, was 11.6, as against 15.8 in 1910. This is a decrease of 4.2 per cent. The illiterates enumerated included fifty-six native whites, 5,418 foreign-born whites and twenty-eight negroes. Of all the foreign-born whites in the city, 20.8 are included in the illiterate class, according to the report.

However, it states that the younger generation here is much less illiterate than the older, and bases its contention on the fact that the portion of the population between 16 and 20 years has an illiteracy percentage of but 8 per cent.

In Clifton were found 1,125 persons over nine years of age who could not read or write. They consisted of twenty-seven native white and 1,096 foreign-born whites. Of the total population, 5.6 per cent. are in this class. The same condition regarding the younger generation was found to exist.

Paterson has 6,903 illiterate whites, or a percentage of 6.3 the total adult population, showing a slight decrease since 1910. The percentage of illiteracy in Passaic county is given as 7. More than 15 per cent. of the total foreign-born population in the county is included in the list of illiterates.

An illiterate is defined in the census as a person ten years old or older, who is unable to write either in English or any other language.

Unlike Passaic, some of the other industrial cities of New Jersey, including Bayonne and Hoboken, showed an increase in illiteracy.

Bayonne's percentage of this class jumped from 9.1 eleven years ago to 11.7 last year. Its total number of illiterates is 6,188. New Brunswick, Trenton, Camden and West Hoboken all show an increase, while the other towns and cities recorded have decreases, except Newark, which remains the same in this respect.

The state, as a whole, shows a slight diminution, 5.1 per cent. of the adult population now being classed as illiterates against 5.6 per cent. in 1910. There are altogether 127,661 persons of this type in New Jersey, 6,797 of them being native whites, 2,899 of foreign or mixed parentage, and 111,595 of foreign birth.

Urban districts lead the rural in the amount of illiteracy the report plainly shows, the percentages being 5.3 for the cities and 4.6 for outlying districts.

School attendance in the State is given as 94.9 per cent. of the total number of children, against 92.6 per cent. in 1910. Of children between sixteen and seventeen, 29.9 per cent. are attending school.

The population of New Jersey is given as 72.8 per cent. native white and 23.4 per cent. foreign-born white. The percentage of foreign-born in 1919 was 25.9.

There are in Passaic thirty-four nationalities as known previous to the World War, viz: American, Austrian, Belgian, Bohemian, Can-



adian, Chinese, Croatians, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanians, Mexican, Norwegian, Polish, Roumanian, Russian, Scotch, Servian, Slavish, Swedish, Swiss, Syrian, Spanish, Welsh. Of these, twenty-seven attend our elementary public schools and seven the High School.

In the North Atlantic States, an area of but 12 per cent. of the United States the social, industrial, political, educational, and in every other sphere of life affects about half the population. It is said that here in Passaic we have the largest percentage of foreign-born of any community in the United States, a percentage of 52 per cent. and to add to that their children brings the percentage to between 84 and 85 per cent.

Since the foregoing was written the following advance sheets of the 1920 census from the Director of Census, Washington, have been received:

PASSAIC .....	31,840	32,001	18,026	18,832	13,495	12,870	292	299
Under 5 years .....	4,238	4,409	4,199	4,357	24	22	15	30
Under 1 year .....	804	816	794	808	6	3	4	5
5 to 9 years .....	3,853	3,734	3,706	3,609	127	103	19	22
10 to 14 years .....	3,123	3,188	2,750	2,798	353	368	20	22
15 to 19 years .....	2,258	2,611	1,753	1,923	484	674	21	14
20 to 44 years .....	13,443	13,683	4,243	4,554	9,038	8,977	148	152
45 years and over.....	4,919	4,368	1,373	1,588	3,465	2,721	69	59
Age unknown .....	6	8	2	3	5	5	...	...
18 to 44 years .....	14,290	14,727	4,886	5,255	9,235	9,310	155	162
21 years and over .....	17,949	17,432	5,330	5,816	12,382	11,411	211	205

County or City	Indian			Chinese			Japanese		
	1920	1910	1900	1920	1910	1900	1920	1910	1900
Passaic .....	...	...	...	24	25	21	1	1	...

Total foreign-born white, 26,365: Armenia, 29; Austria, 1,462; Belgium, 37; Canada, French, 3; Canada, other, 117; Czecho-Slovakia, 1,255; Denmark, 28; England, 601; Finland, 13; France, 192; Germany, 1,259; Greece, 114; Hungary, 3,696; Ireland, 735; Italy, 3,203; Jugo-Slavia, 151; Lithuania, 29; Netherlands, 910; Norway, 43; Poland, 8,324; Rumania, 59; Russia, 3,436; Scotland, 368; South America, 9; Spain, 9; Sweden, 139; Switzerland, 65; Syria, 13; Wales, 7; West Indies, 4; All other countries, 55.





## CHAPTER LII

### WAR WITH GERMANY

The declaration of war was issued April 6, 1917, and was taken as a matter of course by everybody who looked forward to a lengthy contest for which preparations should be made. This view was strengthened by the attacking of United States Patrol boats by the German U boats off the New Jersey coast, on April 17, although it created little excitement. The first act in the drama was the planting of vegetable gardens in May, to assist production. Hundreds were so planted. With the exception of granting an honorary degree by Columbia University, May 10, on General Joffre, the hero, and winner of the battle of the Marne, there was little done until June 4, when the first registration began of all male residents between the ages of 21 and 31 inclusive, in honor of which ten thousand joined in a parade. On this date the first Liberty Loan drive began. Christian Bahnsen was made chairman. On July 20, occurred the first drawing of names of men for active army service. The Second Liberty Loan drive began October 1, and ended in glory. But this was not enough, and to help win the war the people set about to conserve food, while preachers and speakers held special services to show the importance of saving food. Sunday, October 21, was devoted to that end in the churches. On October 24 a rousing meeting of war workers was held in the High school, followed on the 27th by a monster parade of Women Workers. On November 1, Rev. Anna H. Shaw, at the High school gave an instructive address.

Not only women generally, but the Y. W. C. A. in particular did good, tireless work.

The Winter of 1917-18 was a severe one, particularly from January 2 to February 5, 1918, when the thermometer ranged from zero to 14 degrees below, freezing water pipes in hundreds of houses. In addition, coal was so scarce as to compel schools and churches to close, and finally the gas works were shut down, for lack of coal, to save which street lights were cut off and all but drug stores closed at six in the evenings. Even the railroad trains ran on Sunday schedule. Candles were used in many homes. On many of the coldest days even offices were without heat. This continued from January 17 to 24, 1918, without a murmur. In addition there were heatless Mondays from January 21 to February 25, when the cold was intense. The women of the city were assiduous in knitting and sewing for the soldiers, and it was an every day sight to see them knitting on trolley and train, in public and private meetings.

On March 23, news that the Germans had broken through the line on the Western front reached Passaic, creating no little excitement and



arousing grave apprehensions, and led our government to hasten to the relief of the Allies with half a million of men. On April 15, the driving back of the Allies, increased our fears which led the "Daily News" to say editorially, April 17th:

#### STAND FAST.

Grant us stout hearts to bear the news from France.

In this hour of the gravest peril to the cause of democracy in the world we need every ounce of sanity, of loyalty, of devotion that we possess.

As the peril increases, so increases the need to withstand the peril. For civilization cannot submit to be overwhelmed by barbarism, however super-efficient the barbarism.

Stand firm! Stand fast! All is yet well, and our power increases daily. If Foch can but avert the master blow now, all will finally be well.

This hastened on the Third Liberty Loan drive, which was inaugurated with a monster parade April 26 and closed May 4.

Not satisfied with this Passaic gave \$85,000 for Red Cross work during May, to celebrate which a rally was held in the High school on May 27, on the morning of which 200 more men left for Camp Dix. The destruction by U boats of ten of our vessels off our coast on June 4, created no fears and caused less trouble than the strike on June 7 of trolley employees, at this critical time.

On July 4, Ex-President Roosevelt participated in a monster parade which was planned to amalgamate the thirty-seven nationalities here. Within a month our people became sanguine of the defeat of Germany very soon and to hasten the matter they began by saving gas and oil. On Sunday, September 1, not an automobile for pleasure was seen upon the streets.

All registered men wore a white tag. On September 3 over 1000 who wore none were arrested and sent to camp. September 12 was registration day. Upon the coat of every registered man was placed a button, by women.

On September 24th the Fourth Liberty Loan drive was undertaken.

At this time as if to try still more the endurance of the people, coal became so scarce as to make it necessary for the government to prescribe the quantity for every party using it. This continued for a year or more.

On Sunday, October 6, New York and Passaic papers, extra editions, announced that Germany had accepted our terms of peace. This, although untrue, caused great excitement that day until the mistake was discovered and explained. On October 8, Passaic was visited by crippled soldiers who had been wounded in battles at Chateau Thierry. In addition to war troubles, Passaic was visited by 1,353 cases of Spanish influenza in October, a disease fatal to children, which resulted in closing of churches and schools, and preventing children from entering or leaving the city. The Fourth Liberty Loan, which had lagged, was





given an impetus, carrying it over the top October 19, the day after President Wilson had notified Germany that he would refuse to accept her peace overtures. At 1 o'clock November 7, announcement was made that Germany had surrendered. Within five minutes, whistles and bells began their noise, all mills and places of business closed for the day, while it seemed as if every inhabitant of the city crowded the streets with flags, bunting, drums, tin pans, and horns, singing, shouting and talking as they walked, ran or jumped along, and in hundreds of ways giving expressions to their joy. This continued until midnight. The next day it was learned that for the second time the announcement, while not exactly true, was at least premature.

Two days later it was announced that "Kaiser Bill is reported to have abdicated his throne." Before this could be believed the announcement came of the Armistice November 11. On that afternoon the scenes of the 7th were repeated, with the addition of effigies of the Kaiser, bounding and bumping over the streets at the end of a rope, tied to wagon, auto or trolley.

So ended the war in Passaic. Armistice Day, November 11, was made a national holiday on and after 1921, when it was most fittingly observed in Passaic by a monster patriotic meeting under the auspices of the local Rotary Club, addressed by James F. Minturn, an Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and State Senator Runyon, followed by an appropriate song by Mr. Francis Porter. In the afternoon ground was broken for the new \$325,000 building of the Young Men's Christian Association. In the evening at the High School two tablets were unveiled. They contain the names of all persons from that institution, who in any way assisted in the war,

In securing men for the army Passaic had two Draft Boards. Draft Board No. One was composed of George L. Leonhard, Dr. Michael Liebson and John Thurber, secretary, who resigned, succeeded by John W. Speer. Board No. Two consisted of William F. Gaston, Esq. Dr. Gerhard J. Van Schott, Sr. and Walter C. Cabell, Esq. These Boards existed from August 1917 to March 1919 during which time 1,220 men were examined and sent to camps.

The old Fifth Regiment of New Jersey's National Guard was mustered into the Federal service immediately after the declaration of war, its identity was practically lost and the Passaic units became known as Companies A. and M. of the 114th Infantry, Twenty-ninth Division, Company A under command of Captain Frederick E. Rohrbach, and Company M under command of Captain William H. Kruitosh. As such they went over seas and fought; as such they returned, minus those who gave their all.

Passaic was represented in every branch of the service, and many were decorated for bravery and valor. Passaic claims the man who though a plain and humble citizen, Louis Van Iersel, holds the signal





honor of being the most decorated man of the entire American army, a small unassuming youth, a sergeant who singlehanded captured a score or more of the enemy while on a night patrol.

Louis Van Iersel, 67 River driver, recognized as America's most decorated soldier, received thirteen of the highest decorations awarded by the countries of the world, including the Italian Cross of War. All men holding the Congressional Medal of Honor were decorated with the Italian Cross by General Vaccari, of the Italian army, who was in Washington. The following quotation is taken from a Passaic paper:

Sergeant Alan Louis Eggers, 152 Summit avenue, Summit, was decorated with the Italian honor yesterday.

Van Iersel was a sergeant in Company M, Ninth Infantry, Second Division. He has been decorated with thirteen medals for bravery out of the line of duty. They are: 1. Congressional Medal of Honor, November 8, 1918. While on a reconnaissance patrol at Muzon, under heavy machine gun fire, he plunged into the water, swam a river in the face of the machine gun fire, obtained the necessary information and swam back to his outfit. 2. Medal Militaire, November 8, 1918. 3. Croix de Guerre, with palm, Soissons, July 18, 1918. 4. Croix de Guerre, with palm, Champagne, August 19, 1918. 5. Croix de Guerre, with silver star, St. Mihiel, September 19, 1918. 6. Montenegro Medal, Paris, July, 1919. Life Saving Medal, English, February 2, 1917. Life Saving Medal, New York, February 2, 1917. New Jersey State Medal. Medal from Paterson for enlistment there. Honorary Medal, United Spanish War Veterans. French Fouragere, Second Division, Ninth Infantry.

On the sea a Passaic youth showed what he was made of. The first ship of our Navy or Merchant Marine to be torpedoed by a German submarine after America's declaration of war, was the "Aztec," of which Captain Edward J. O'Brien of this city was in command. Several lives were lost, while the captain, the last to leave the doomed vessel, floundered about with several others in a small lifeboat days and nights in the chilly waters off the coast of France until picked up.

Liberty Loan figures officially computed show the following:

	Raised	Quota
First, June 4-14, 1917 .....	\$1,731,700	\$1,474,100
Second, October 1-28, 1917 .....	5,431,100	4,278,000
Third, April 27 to May 4, 1918 .....	4,544,050	2,206,400
Fourth, September 24 to October 19, 1918	6,219,800	4,515,900
Fifth, April 21 to May 10, 1919.....	4,216,100	3,386,900

Red Cross Roll Call figures are as follows: 4,800 members in 1917; 11,000 members in 1918; 9,600 members in 1919; 3,200 members in 1920. In addition there was subscribed to the National Red Cross Fund \$130,785 in 1917, and \$100,000 in 1918.

The public schools, public institutions, semi-public enterprises, the mills and factories, all helped in making these propositions successful. The appeal to purchase War Saving Stamps was met with the same willing response, and the total of \$1,144,272 was raised by War Saving Stamps in Passaic.



Today there are three ex-service men's organizations in Passaic growing out of the World War. They are Gerald V. Carroll Post, No. 161, American Legion; Sergeant Elbert R. Gardner Post, United American War Veterans, and Valentine Drellich Post Veterans of Foreign Wars. A club for disabled veterans is in process of formation. The local Red Cross chapter of the American Red Cross has done much for the boys who have returned.

## SERVICE LIST.

(All of Passaic, except otherwise indicated.)

Joseph Albaniese, Albert E. Adamsky, Andrew B. Adamkovik, George J. Atkinson, Arthur G. A. Albert, Anthony Agzi, Christo Arzzero, Harry M. Abhau, Adam Abramowitz, Mike Ayoup, Altomuro Amielo; Stephen Aeidrezick, no address; Thomas Ateridge, Moe Appel, Ernest J. Adams, Cornelius Arensman, William S. Anderson, David G. Ackerman, Reay S. Adams, Isaac A. Alpert, Bruce Walker Angus, Murray Aufzien, Leonard A. Allman, Jr., Leon Alarka, Jake Alabarda, John Adamec, Charles Albright, Jacob Adler, Richard Aukschun, Ettore Apuzzo, Alden S. Abbott, Leonard Agrusti, Frank Ane, Walintz Adamowycz, Peter Agnello, Arthur J. Andres, Alexander Adamink, 414 Water street, Bridgeport, Conn.; Jacob Allman, Herbert Abraham, Thos. C. Anderson, Box 567, Greenwich, Conn.; Charles Anderson, Edmund S. Amlicki, Robert Allen, V. Alicniello, Henry Aman, F. W. Ainsworth, Chas. Ainsworth, Victor M. Adams, Albert E. Adams, Joseph N. Anderson, Archie G. Anderson, Howard Anderson, Clarence E. Ackerman, Andrew Andries; Nicholas Andelia, no address; Howard P. Allen, John Ainsworth, Fred Alavis, Eleneer E. Allen, Edwin B. Ackerman, Harry Alesso, W. H. Arneel, Arthur Agnew, Chauncy A. Ackerman, T. E. Ackerman, Erich G. Abraham, F. G. Atkins, Walter Bakelaar, Albert N. Bander, Oscar Binder, Irving G. Bodner, Fred Becker, George E. Binns, John Bonomini, Joseph Balata, Alexander F. Borig, John W. Bush, Milton S. Burt, Adam Bilislakky, Andrew Bojek; Stanislaw Barowonski, 611 Warren street, Harrison, N. J.; Alex Balli, Lester Barton; Chauncy A. Barrett, No address; Michael Benczi, Herbert Baker, Morris Brusky, William Beech, Ben Benjamin, H. Weldon Bowman, Julius Bertoty, Neil Baker, Walter Behrens, Joseph Bartman, Samuel Bergzma; Everett, Bearse, No address; Edward Basili; George Betzel, no address; Bronslaw Bobicu, no address; Tunis Bello, George Bocchino, Fred Bromwer, Edward Burgoync, Frank Bolarvitz, James J. Brennan, Nathan Brussel, Maurice S. Baumgarten, Edgar Benatar, Emil A. Bernhardt, Michael Buor, Joseph Berger, Herman Bayer, Frank D. Bogia, Clarence W. Bohm, Hugh Bracken, Thomas F. Blake, Arthur R. Biowne; Muron Bopony, no address; Jakub Badek, Joseph H. Baher, Louis Bonomoni, John W. Birkner, Harry Runyon Brewer, Mortimer Z. Bishop, John Bumbera, Edward Boyer, Jacob Boffard, Winniam M. Broekamp, Joseph S. Brotovich, Henry J. Behrens, Eugene A. Banker, Stanley Byra, Victor J. Brzozowski, Robert Broadfield, Stephen Birchak, John Brunda, Stephen Brehove, Ira Belknap, William R. Bombell, Anthony Benjamin, Thomas F. Baker, William J. Boetrus, William J. Brown; Gilbert D. Bogart, address not known; Edward C. Burke, Jack, M. Bowie, Meyer Braverman, William J. Barry, Michael Bartman, George Breeman, Michael Boyko, John Boyko, Sheldon Bennett, M. A. Bernato, Theodore Bennett, Henry W. Bowman, Walter Earle Battigate, Michael Baitman, Bruno Babbles, John Bopper, Walter B. Boers, Walter E. Beynberg, Walter Bakelaar; George B. Baker, moved to Brooklyn; Joseph Benatar, John Brehove, S. E. Behram, Chadman Bull, Jacob Berman, Henry Adams Barry, Harry P., Baker, Theodore Bennett, Lawrence Bakelaar, John Bartman, Kay Brooky, Edward Louis Ball; W. Boinowski, not known; Cara Bassor, Meyer Benjamin, Philip Benjamin; Bayduk, no address; Merrill E. Bedell, Joseph P. Betz, Richard Broadfield, Bert J. Belay, Walter H. Berridge, Tunis Baker, Henry Y. Berridge, Frank Bradley, Irving E. Berridge, Carl Bredhol, Henry Bahnsen, Everett S. Bowen, Theodore Belfi, William Borneman, Jr., Edward Ball, Walter F. Brett, Frank Bizub, Ignatz, Boloski; Fred Bosies, no address; Paul Boehm, George Bray, Abe Behrman, Arthur Blaesser, Cornelius Baker, Henry Berger, John Brain, John P. Brady, Herman Bodner, Louis Balinsky, William Belfi, Frank Birkhoff, Samuel Bustard, Fred H. Bartelt, Raymond Banks, Arthur C. Bird, Edwin Buckley, Irving Barnet, Peter Baronka, George W. Cooper, Edgar Eugene Coleman, Tony Cucci; George Coniglio, 8 E. 3rd. street, N. Y.; Edmund Carpen, Carmello Cannasaro, Stanislaw Ciolek, Guiseppa Costiglio, James Collins, John Cupilli, Thomas Cafferty, Charles A. Cowley, Vincenzo Costiflio, Thomas Cavanaugh, Christopher J. Clarke, James J. Cahill, John E. Cullen; Frank Cicerski, no address; Louis Ceccacci, Peter Costiglio, Harry Cherin, Isadore Cohen, John Collins, Salvatore Calderaro, Philip C. Clark, Harry Crawbuck, Carmine Carucci, John Cannariato; William Cartwright, no address; Joseph Catazaro, Ralph Cramer, Guiseppa Caruso, Philip Catanzaro, Peter Cooper, Max R. Cramer,





Martin Castricum, Everett C. Conant, George S. Campbell, John A. Corcoran, Mandell Crothers, Harry L. Conoven, Norman C. Conner, Nicholas Campbell, Patrick Connell, Antonio Corona, James E. Cavanagh, Albert L. Cummings, Bertram Collard, Vito Carluce, William P. Carroll, Antoni Cucci, Nicholas Cusimona, Patrick, V. Campbell, Restrar Callogo, George R. Conner, John Clendenning, Jr., Korrell R. Cayan, James B. Conway, Joseph Cohen, no address; Myer Cudroff, William Carey, Francis C. Cogan, Tony Cucci, Jesse W. Caulfield, Robert Carrie, Jr., Richard H. Carroll, Charles Carross, Anthony Catka, New Hampton, N. Y.; Michael J. Casey, William E. Carroll, Karl A. Carl, John J. Cavanagh, Abraham Cohen, Stanley Cychoski, John Cimo, Stewart A. Cunningham, Edward A. Cosgrove, Raymond J. Cadmus, Elmer Wall Carey, Horace J. Cartwright, George D. Conover, Alphonsus Costello; Joseph Catalano, no address; Robert Clendenning, John Czechowski, William Capko, Lawrence Costello, L. Carroll Clock, Nick Christensen, Herbert Cornelieec, Raymond Philip Clarke, D. Cavallo, S. Capra, J. Caltagirone, Michael Cusimona, Antonio Cusimona, Stanley F. Conant, Leonard Captain, Paul Cardello, Ralph Crossman, William E. Crawbuck, Warren K. Cadmus, Gordon Cunningham, Sam Circullo, Al Cohen, James K. Carroll, Harry M. Capko, Ben Cohen, Joseph L. Cherepy, Willfred S. Campbell, John Cannon, Daniel J. Carucci, Thomas Cannon, Edward Cornelius, George Collins, Joseph Chruha, Lester H. Clark, John Cross, Thomas Collard, Gustave Ceerdie, James A. Cohn, William Daris, James Clendinning, Thomas Clendinning, J. H. Dr. Carlisle, Neil Christensen, John M. Castricum, Jr., Anthony Circullo, Thomas Donohue, Adolph Dorsky, Samuel Dubron, Richard Dunnican, George Dermatae, Bert Denbleyker, Gerard DeMuro, Robert Depompe, Floyd DeVoe, Peter Dombrowsky, Nicholas Derienzo, Robert H. Drummond, Herbert Dob, Roario Deotti, John H. Duncan, Peter Deidone, Rolan Dixon, Jermiaeh Delayney, Alexander Doremus, George Drew, Ira DeBlayker, Jacob DeVogel, Earl R. Dawley, Fred R. Demarest, William J. Donnelly, Robert W. Dawley, William E. Doolittle, John Deleuw, Robert H. Davidson, Fred S. Dunn, Jr., Guy E. DeLagerberg, Frank S. DeGruchy; Edward M. Dickinson, no address; Edward A. Delaney, Thomas H. Driscoll, Lewis Deluca, Thomas Dooner, Fred Danenhaner, Matthew Donner, Francis, G. Darby, James H. Donnelly, Virgilio DeLorenzo, Thomas E. Duffy, Samuel Dalgin, Charles E. Danko, Arthur E. Dreike, John DeBleyker, Ellsworth Doremus, Peter DeCano, James Daddezio, John DeVries, Kenneth F. Dent, Cornelius DeVogel, James J. Durkin, James P. Devlin, Archie Doolittle, Louis Dallaster, Michael Dwyer, John Davala, Chauncey DeMuth, John Derling, Rosari Donato, Thomas Dridsky, John DeLuca, William Dube, Henry W. Dryglas, Herman H. Dubrow, Ganfoli Dimarie, Louis Delacaeo, Frank D. Dwyer, Edward T. Dunnican, Frank Daniels, John Joseph Devlin; Michael Durkot, address not known; Joseph L. David, Jack Dearies, Nicholas DeVogel, Oswald Deghetto, Walter J. Doherty, Goerd DeVreis, Howard C. Erickson, Garret Eelman, Jr., Wilbert G. Eelman, Jacob Eelman, Max Erman, William C. Ehman, Julius Endler, John Earles, Max Edelman, Morris Edelschick, James Elmes, Abraham Eckstein; Steve Egleswski, no address; Henry Ewart, Alpheus T. English, Harry M. Eckert, Edward W. Emerson; Joseph Elkow, no address; Martin A. Evans, William V. Evans, Irving Evansky, William Eelman; Aaron H. Einfrank, no address; Daniel T. Emerson, Clarence L. Eminons; Stanley Earls, no address, Rowland P. Evans, Charles Ellicot, Jr., William Englant, F. A. Eustace, Arthur Dunkerly, Donald Duntjorn, John H. Duerkes, Frank Dabeck, Peter DeYeager, Henry Del Favero, George F. Davala, Harold R. Donner, Carlyle, J. Dalton, Alexander Dombrowski, John Dubrow, Orie Dekker, Charles L. Denison, Raymond DeLorenzo, James Delaney, Frank Dittrich, Leo A. Donovan, Cornell W. Demarest, Jacob DeBoer, Ellis Doolittle, John DeVogel, Robert DeGroot, Aaron DeGroot, Patrick Donohue, Abe Friedman, Adam Furtenbacher, Raymond Fogelman, Charles D. Fuller, died in service; Jos. Fenuell, Albin Franke, Rudolph Fester, Geo. J. Fanning, Ed. Feld, Constantin Fiori, William Feier, Robert Fairweather, Leonard Fisher, Sandy Fierstein, Charles Fierstein, Albert Ferwerda, Frank Freeze, Joseph Flanagan, George J. Foster, E. Edwin M. Fredericks, Joseph S. Freyland, W. Fruch, Emil A. Froelich; Frank B. Fairbanks, address not known; R. E. Flemming, no address; William Fielder, Henry Faust, Philip Finklestein, George Fitt, Frank Fruze, John Flanagan, John M. Fruch, Edward H. Feldweg, F. Federico, F. Firante, N. Farrow; Julius Faludy, not found; Howard B. Fiske, ohn Fallot; Stanislaw Duniski; no address; Lasso Francesco, no address; Joseph Frago, Charles A. Faust, Frank Fortgang, Julius Freidman, Louis Fortgang, Philip Foti, Eugene J. Fallot, Guiseppe Fallone, Cornelius Fisher; Stanley Foreman, 192 Park avenue, East Rutherford; Edwin Frederickson, Philip Feola, Dr. Maurice Finkleman, Walter Flower, Morris O. Flamm, Harry Fedor, Walter F. Finch, Oker Flammig; Sam Fodie, Philadelphia, Pa.; Louis Frey, Aaron S. Feld, Morris Feld, Joseph A. Finn, George W. Fairchild, Jr., Louis A. Fritt, Roswald N. Fox, Warron R. Fiske, Michael G. Fuydal, Eugene K. Field, Victor Favino, Edwin W. Fenver, John L. Fitzgerald, Jr., Thomas A. Fanning, Harry Fischer, Edward C. Fetish, J. William Fanning, Joseph L. Feeney, Joseph Feth, Irving Grotsky, David H. Goldstein, John Gernat, Charles L. Gilmartin, Stanley Gerveski, Michael Glen, Walter H. Gardner, Anthony Goling, Feranti Golgero, Walter S. Glaser, Harry E. Glass, Salvatore Gerage, Sam Graceffo, Michael Gladis, Jerome



Genesefi, Daniel Garmesoo, Austin Grady, Patrick Griffin, Harry Gee, Michelle Finnata, Thomas Grisaffi; William Grein, no address; Harold E. Gardner, Solomon Gang, Michele Giacomarro, Joseph Gefevwick; Harry H. Green, no address; Frank Ganngazza, Guiseppa Grace, David Gibb, Neil Geene, Giuseppe Ganguzza, Johna Glinsky, Vincenzo Groziano; Batale Gunta, no address; John Geiger, Herman Green, Frank Graziano, Fred Geiger, Michael Giggi, no address; Ed. J. Gillespie, Wm. Grunster, Jr., Max Ginsberg, Jos. Goldi, Anthony Gozdic, Nat Grotzky, Patrick J. Gilmore, Wm. L. Gasparin, Wm. G. Gran, Jos. Gladis, Jr.; Anthony Gorney, no address; Edward J. Getches, James J. Gallagher, Stanley Gutosky, Louis H. Gold, Isaac Gelok, Gilbert A. Gildrie, Walder Glowaski, Harry Glynbo, Pasquale Gianno, William Goldack, Alfred Gossrau, John Gasparine, Philippo Ganguzza Arthur Graeman, Isaac Goldman, Louis Goewalis, John Goldstein, John Golden, Hyman Goldstein, William A. Gras, Julius Garber, Cornelius Grinwis, Nicholas Golash, George Geisert, Anthony V. Grass, John Grinwis, Benjamin Goldman, James Galiano, Joseph Gluseec, Anthony Grinwis, John C. Gogal, Raymond R. Goodlatte, Edward A. Gras, Michael J. Ganley, James J. Garrity, Albert Goldby, Jr., David Goodkin, Dennis J. Gallagher, John Geczy, William Gardner, Neil Geene, John Gregory, Joseph Gallagher, James B. Gale, George R. Golding, William Greene, James Greene, William Greene, David J. Gibson, Charles F. Geisert, Hubert Groendyke, George Greep, William Grunstra, Joseph Greyshock, Joseph E. Gansereit, Harold R. Gannon, Harold Greene, Anthony Gatti, Alfred Grill, Walter E. Garrabrant, Eugene Graff, Fred Gaspauni, Joseph J. Goch, Jacob Gazel, Joseph Galleta, John Gelok, Joseph Glas, Edward L. Getchius, Stanley, J. Giblin, John J. Gallagher; Robert McAllister Garside, 128 Grove street, Clifton; Francesco Graziano, R. A. 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Healion, Colgate Holmes, Ralph R. Hartley, Emil Hilbert, Jr., Joseph Hudak, Ralph C. Hird, Albert Haag, Aloysius K. Hoffman, George Harrison, Jr., John J. Hanily, Arthur B. Hanune; Stephen Herner, no address; John J. Homer, Robert Hance, Eugene Hartley, Leo Hoffman, Rudolph Hadzime, Thomas A. Heaney; Howard M. F. Hildabrant, 125 DeMott avenue, Clifton; John Hushler, Hans W. Hilgert, William J. Hurley, James Hector, Claude H. Hardifer, Henry Huber, John E. Hamnor, William Haag, Alfred Holm, Joseph Hadzime, William Heinchies, Walter Hellegers, Barnet Hesman, Harold Hutchings, Louis Hoffman, Patrick Hanarahin, Emil H. Hauk, Thos. J. Hawthorne, Irving Harris, Albert Paul Handel, Harold Hubschmidt, Ed. C. Hubinger, Floris Hundertmark, Nicholas Hunki, Benjamin Hubinger, John J. Hague, Harry Halpren; John Hart, no address; Elmer V. Hermance, Earle M. Hersh, Robert T. Hohman, Cornelius Holster, James Haldorsen, Herbert W. Handel, Henry Carr Holpp, Owen Hoar, Nicholas Hook, Edward Hogan, Harry Herbert, George J. Horowitz, Edwin Hagens, Ernest Hubinger, Joseph L. Hachman, Eli Henderson, Wesley Horn, Harry Hundersmark, Raymond Haskins, Frank Hughes, Garrett Hennion, Vincent Hughes, William Hennenberg, William M. Hardifer, Spencer D. Hopper, Herbert D. Hunter, Harry Hloff, John P. Hagerty, Frank B. Hastie, Joseph Heyman, Richard Halperin, Robert Iles, Leonardo Indelicato, Irving Isreal, Francis S. Johanning, Jacob I. Jaffe, David Jaffe, Philip Jaffe, Victor Jaffe, Leonard Johnson, William J. Jennings, Jacob Jaroslow; Leroy Johnson, no address; Alphius W. Jones, no address; Jos. Jarminski, John J. Jones, Albert G. Jahn, Jos. B. Jamieson, Jr., Patrick J. Joyce, Morris Janowsky, William O. Jelleme; Joseph Jankiewics, 24 East 19th street, Bayonne; William T. Johnson, Walter Jesionowsky, George S. Jones, R. Vernon Johnston, Herbert Jones; Ben A. Jansak, died in service; Mark Jurewicz, Edward W. Jewitt, Jr., John B. Jesinowsky, M. J. Janowsky, Charles F. H. Johnson, Martin Kusant, Walter Kozich, Louis Kaplan; Kazimier Kranczyk, no address; Herman P. Kaempfer, Charles Kuller, William Korin; Thomas Kalinowski, no address; William Kriepowski, South River, N. J.; Morris Klass, William S. Kievitt; Mike Kivshara, no address; Cornelius Koorman, Frank Kriston, Paul Knudsen, Samuel Kreshover, Peter Kovalyscik, Bronislaw Kopacz, Sebastian Kormiet, Stephen Keyser; Frank Kueken, no address; John Kowal, Stephen Karp, John Kovach, David Kaplow, Charles Keizer, Wladislaw Kuezensky, Tony Kazrowski, Harold Kirk, Nicholas Kovalcik, Joseph Knolilack; David Kessler, no address; Stanley Kowaliski, Adolph Karsh, John Kravec, Leonard Kusant, Charles Kacyzk; John Kudlas, no address; Peter Karl, Max Kretzchamar, Richard Kievitt, Philip J. Knoblack, George A. Kennedy, Dr. Kummel, Mike Kanservich, John B. Kievitt, Wil-





liam H. Kuchler, Adolph M. D. Kroll, Maurice Kromer, Andrew Karewan, Leonard Kyzir, Joseph H. Keefe, Jr., Vincent Kalewcik, no address; Frank Kirchner; Mike Karuyay, no address; John Kane, George C. Knapp, Horace A. Ketcham, Harry Keane, Louis Kaminetsky, Frederick Kirchner, Richard Kyle, Richard Kastell, Abraham Kaplan; Louis Kolinsky, died in service; Joseph Kuklie, Michael Kennedy, James F. Kane, Antonio Kuroski; Herman Kaslowsky, no address; Peter Kaef, Morris A. Kzaminetsky, Raymond Kyse; Teddy Klansky, 1480 Park Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Charles E. Kettner; Thomas J. Kay, no address; Henry Kirschner, Herbert Koehler, Herbert Kirschner, Samuel J. Kirschner, James Kaywood, Joseph Kolodzey, George F. Koehler, Walter F. Kruger, Nicholas Kievitt, August M. King, H. H. Kummel; Charles Kozenick, no address; Joseph Klenzcak, John M. Kreta, Alexander M. Kostus, Abe Kushner, Nicholas Kopchak, John Kohmann, George Kaywood, Nathan Kaminetsky, Kurt Kuchn, Louis Kucken, John J. 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Morse, Angelo Manfre, James Meehan, Steve MacLasy, Joseph Mascuch, Anthony Massara, James L. Mooney, Thomas Miller, David Minski, John Murcko, Richard F. Meyers, John J. Mireider, Charles Madsen, Amos Marchese, Ray F. Myers, George Morrison, John M. Martin, Jacob Miller, Henry W. C. Meyer, George Meyer, Mike Markovics, Jerry Michota, Joseph Mireider, Herbert Mott, David K. Mackay, Bertram Manley, William Morris, Paul Maycok, Charles Miksits, John Merbler, Charles Mavcak, Gustave Manuel; John J. Manning, care Swan & Finch Oil Co., Broadway, Elizabeth, N. J.; Harry Mayer, Ferdinand Marschalk, George Marschalk, Jr., Bella Mamlet, Joseph A. Marchese, Jr.; Karl Mikshitsh, 14 River Road, Garfield, N. J.; Dugald McKellar, Daniel A. McCarthy, John Edward McQuillén, Alfred J. McGrath,





Charles McAlevey, Carrol A. McGuire, John Vincent McGuire, John F. McGuire, Patrick J. McAreary, Ralph McGuire, Louis F. McMahan, Dr. Robert MacGuffie, William McCaffery, Joseph V. McGuire, John J. McArdle, Charles B. McQuillen, Douglas G. McGrath, John A. McCann, William McArthur, Alan W. McKean, Philip D. McKeown, Arthur McPartland, John McCarthy, John McKitto, Thomas McLaughlin, William A. MacDevitt, Daniel M. McArdle, Charles McCabe, Frank W. McCormick, James McGrath, William J. McGuire, Charles H. McCormick, William P. McQuillen, Joseph A. McQuillen, William J. McElivee, John Francis G. McCarthy, Thomas V. McNeill, Allen B. McGowan, James P. McCann, Augustine McGuire, Joseph E. McAteer, Francis McGuire, Pawl W. McQuillen, George Muller, Joseph F. Mazzo, Jack Mlet, Joseph Maysel; Dominick Matus, no address; Arpod Mohiar, Vito Marino; Hunter LeRoy Miller, no address; Edward Mitchell, no address; Alex. Milichulsky, no address; Peter Meterski, no address; Randal F. Masters, Wm. Marchese; Mahcem Morowavjer, no address; Vito Monsastero; Wilfred Nehm Meyer, no address; Abraham Maltenfort, Frank Paul Malo; Joe Mauger, no address; Alfred Morris, Simeon Microp, Jos. Murray, Jas. Mitchell; Vincent Miloschevsky, no address; Fred. Maurer, Alfred Miano, Chas. J. Muller, Thos. C. Meade, John Mihorlovito, John Malley, Joe Macaluso; William Mios, no address; Joe Mingo, Pioni Muchaluk, Bioni Muchaluk, Frank Morales, Walter Murray, Jacob L. Miller, Joe Movobikski; Stephen Malevski, no address; Russel C. Miller, Herman Mobron; Fred Markent, 54 Jacob street, Garfield, N. J.; Frank Molick, John H. Miskowski, Louis Marzano, John Malson, Alfred M. Mamlet, Harris Lester Manley, Frank C. Miles, John Lester Matthews, William J. Mercer, John A. Mierop, John Mikey, Frank Matisofsky, Samuel Mamlet, John Mastenbrook, Richard W. Morrell, John Minogue, Max Marquardt, Joseph Mileski, Elmer Merselis, Frank Martin, George Morrison, Arthur S. Mahoney, Donald A. Mackay; John J. Minick, Christian J. Nickles; Wladislaw Novakowski, no address; Harry James Newman, John Neiradomski, Ferinando Noto; Hans M. Nelson, address unknown; Bernard Neilley, Nicola Natelli, John M. Naughton, Tony Noto, J. Arnold Newman, Philip Noto, John Nichola, Joseph J. Nenetz, Henry Noonan, William E. Nolf, Alphonsus Neilley, Robert Nethery, Robert J. Neilley, Frederick G. Nelson, Frank Novick, Daniel Neilley, William C. Napier, Joseph J. Nemetz, James Nibbling, Leo Nibbling, Herbert L. Noreross, James Leroy Nicoll, James Neilley, Alexander Nicoll; Alexander Norse, address not known; David V. Neilley, address not known; Robert N. Newton, Gustave L. Nelson, Frank Novak, John Otto; Paul Olenski, no address; John Onufer, John O'Keefe, Sidney O'Donoghue, William B. Owen, Jr., John O'Conner, Edward J. O'Brien, Harood Olson, Frederick J. Orth, Max Ostroff, Henry Oostdyke, Thomas O'Neill, John O'Neill, Frank R. O'Neill, Patrick O'Connell, John J. O'Connor, Michael J. O'Randish, S. W. Otto, George A. Otto, Ralph W. Oakley, Michael O'Brien, John O'Brien, Morris O'Brien, John O'Neil, Francis O'Neil, John A. O'Donoghue, David A. O'Donoghue, Joseph O'Connor, William Oliver, John Pickowski, Michael Parno, Frederick Paulison, Bronislaw Pronkerick, Joe Polenowich, John Prizinzona, Frank Paul; Stanislaw Parella, 53 Washington avenue; Robert Russell Pellen, John Paydo, Mike Pringer, Frank Pollaro, Francesco Pepe, Mike Pleva, William Price, George Polyak; John Pawlouski, 24 Patterson avenue; Peter C. Plokhoooy, Joseph Polizzi, Tony Pastor, Morris Platt, Filipo Palambi, James G. Phulippone, Domiano C. Paradiso, Frank Pollaro, Benjamin H. Paulison, George Polinak, Victor Pollara, Athasico Panagioton, Clarence Post, Stanley Poluski, Jacob Prisant, Felise Parese, Paul Pollack, Dominco Paruta, Michael Patierno, Warren Cooper Pattison, Francesko Patti, Sam Polizzotto, Nicholas Pruiksma, Raymond G. Parks, Bernard J. Pakins, no address; Wm. Parker, Guiseppe Piromalli, Joe Poplowijt, Eugene S. Pearl, Louis R. Pink, Frank C. H. Peterman, Wm. Palko, Chas. Pellettire, Boilestave Poyker, no address; Michael Pinquoch, Jas. A. Pontier, Raymond S. Potter, Morris Pinchak, John Pre-Sisto, 23 James street, Clifton, N. J.; Jos. H. Philips, Alberto Piccolo, Arthur Peterson, Vincent J. Patierno, Stephen Patrick, Louis A. Pinck, Herman Pantley, Peter C. Pipeling, Dimith P. Patroff, no address; Paul P. Pontier, John Pinquoch, Edgar Proctor, Chas. C. Paduck, Andrew Polasko, John Papaxizus, Jos. Plazinski, Camillo Pamundo, Leonard Indelacate, Nicholas Petenares; John E. Pardon, 229 Dayton avenue, Clifton, N. J.; Francesci Palatim, Edward Palfy, Ed. E. Proctor, Ed. R. Parcels, Jas. L. Prescott; Jos. Parisi, Construction Camp; John Plewa; Joseph Pipe, no address; Dominik Porter; Tony Petrovic, no address; Charles E. Prescott, Andrew Potosnak, John Pristash, Nicholas Pristash, John Potocsnak, Michael Pasnik; Albert Poloczy, no address; Christopher Plokhoooy, William J. Perry, Stephen C. Prizensky, Edward Poluski, Louis G. Pellegrino, Fred Pepoon, Harry C. Pollard, Frank Pocassa, Benjamin L. Pink, Robert Price, Paul S. Pass, Luke A. Plunkett, William J. Parker; Alfred G. Poehler; 120 Orchard street, Garfield, N. J.; Edward J. Prumer, Louis Francis Phillip, Robert J. Post, Julius Pinkosh, Joseph Proppe, A. Plokhoooy, Abe Pink, Joe Pass, William Pockler, Hiram Pettersen, James Phillips, Capt. W. B. Porter, Earle Platt, James Pontier, Andrew Pontier, 463 Lexington avenue, Clifton; Fred Piercece, Athas M. Pappas, C. Pistilli, Clarke H. Parkhurst, Walter Quinn, Nathan M. Rachels, Alex. Raeskwitz, Samuel Roth; Walenty Rogola, not found; George V. Rutledge, Philip Rinsen, John Rebisz, Jacob Rubin, Harry Rosenberg, John



W. Rudesyle, Francis J. Ross, Gus Roper, John Reinstra, I. Jean Rosenberg, Louis Rusults, Robert Robinson, Mike Riotto, Irving Rinzler, Emanuel Robinson, Myer Rothwacks, James Roane, Arthur Rhodes, W. L. Rowland, Hector Reid, Stephen Russinko, James J. Ross, Jacob R. Rosenthal, Joseph F. Ren, Joseph F. A. Robacky; Garret Rotteveel, 500 Clifton avenue, Clifton, N. J.; Charles Rudnick, Columbus Hospital, New York City; John Joseph Roegner, Henry Ritter, Nicholas Roco, Howard T. Remig; Morris Rochlin, 3815 Spruce street, Philadelphia, Pa.; Herman Ring, Frank W. Rice, Ottavis Roma, Joseph L. Rizak, Samuel Rofkind, Vernon J. Roche, Henry F. Remig, Gerald Roberts, John Rucci, Miles Ronninger, Dr. H. O. Reynolds, Riotto Rosario, Emil Stephen Rubacky, Herbert Bert Rosenstone, Samuel Rosenstone, John N. Ryan, Samuel Riskin, Bennie Lee Robinson, Archibold H. Rhodes, Harry Rittenberg, Samuel Rosenblum, Theodore J. Richmond, Robert J. Reynics, Sam Ramieri, Max Rosenberg, Herbert Richardson, Frank P. Rutkowski, John Reenstra, John K. Ruvelas, William H. Reay, Samuel Roper, Abraham Rosenblum, Andrew Richardson, Leland H. Riley, Edward Richardson, George Roman, George Kellogg Rose, Jr., Nicholas Rose, Frederick E. Rohrbach, Emilio Romano, Camillo Ramundo, Michael Reno, John Reno, Joseph Robin, Aloysius Rogers, August Ritter, Edward L. Ristan, Thomas H. Roe, Frederick S. Rosenheim, William A. Roberts, Frank Roche, Jack Rochlin, David Rosenstone, William E. Rosenheim, Louis Seigendorf, Thomas Swan, Salvatore Sasso, Stanley Schefeski, Mike Senko, Mark H. Stein, Dwight M. Stratton, Joseph Smith, Norris B. Sargent; Roman Skunsky, no address; George P. Spear, Peter Skirkanek, J. P. Schwartz, Bartolo Salmire, Charles S. Sivak, Watson Percy Schofield, Giacono Scinto, John Skazot, Stephen Santiet, Michael Schouten, Andrew Salerno, Stephen Stutz, Herman J. Scheel, Zanan Senkanec, Martin Streen, Andrew Scheffer, Michael Spinoco, John Sticek, Robert Springer, Milton Smith, Guiseppa Saltolanchio, John Siroka; Philip Spot, address unknown; John Santora, address unknown; Andrew Snitsky, address unknown; James N. Samples, Bennie Spitzel, Abraham Solomon, Edwin L. Strand, James Snoop, Frank Sapik, Joseph Supko, William Stockert, Frank Scangarella, Fred Sanders, Tony Surwicz, John S. Sokol, Harry H. Schwartz, Wanislav Swidor, Gustave C. Steffann; Mike Sattik, address unknown; Benjamin Salow, Peter Santiford, Asher Serlin, Henry Steenland, Frank Spisak, Fred Saal, Samuel Slaff, Howard M. Smith, Emil P. Shreter, Charles Sarken, John J. Szymanski, Michael N. Solomon, Isadore J. Stein, Angelo J. Sagui, Valentine Schepard, Andrew T. Sabol, William Sanders, Rudolph Seibel, Clarence E. Stark, Morris L. Simon, Elroy W. Smith, George J. Seger, Gustive Scovern, Bruno M. Sennet, Charles Schneider, George Sahlin, David L. Steiner, Chapman W. Seaman, Charles E. Sattan, Robert Sanfilippo, Harry J. Sinms, Tony Scannelli, David Schramm, Arthur Seltman, Abe Sperber, Joseph H. Snyder, J. Edward Sproul, Steven J. Stanek, Fred W. Smith, William R. Seidel, Joseph Sylvester, L. Szeizel, August Schurmann, Floyd M. Shephard, Henry Schoenbrunn, Gauza Sattan, Frank L. Stryer; Frank Savostsky, address not known; Otto Schreter, James Scannella, Alfred Schmidt, Tony Spano, Richard Saathoff, Albert E. Stonier, Thomas E. Savage, Jacob Schurman, Maurice Slaff, George Snyder, Francis Saxer; Charles Sheps, address unknown; Harry Strat, address unknown; Abraham Saxe, Louis Stiller, Pasquale Sorruo, Giacchino Studiale, John T. Sherman, Barney Shapiro; Isadore Slutsky, address unknown; Raymond Scheck, William J. Schoonmaker, Wilson C. Stonier, Charles G. Schyling, William E. Swartz, Stanley Setlock, Anthony J. Sullivan, Alfred G. Stock, Alfred Schmidt, Benjamin Simbol, George Schreiber, William R. Schell, Max L. Simon, Samuel Seligson, John Sattler, Louis Suffoite; Walademer Steiko, address unknown; Kazemier Schneider, Alfred Sperling, Joseph F. Sorge, Tith Suchtelny, Harry Swan, Andrew T. Sippe, Louis Schwartz, Abraham Schneider, Jack Schletter, Frederick E. Sieper, John Stromer, Louis J. Sojke, William Synder, Stephen A. Sabol, John R. Sabol, Thomas Spano, Frank W. Sherry, J. F. Schaub, Reginald Seger, Lester A. Sinms, John Sanko, Jr., Irving Sorkin, Elmer A. Speer, Harold P. Sturges, Harry M. Schevon, Frederick H. Schlinghoff, George Shilepeto, William J. Stewart, John J. Schneider; Joseph Sattenstein, no address; Frank Edward Swatosh, Raymond T. Stewart, John H. Sturn, Charles J. Schroeder, Richard A. Steffan, William Clifford Shea, F. F. Sandknop, Andrew Scheffer, Edward J. Sieminsky, Edwin L. Strand, James Smith, Frank L. Smith, Cornelius Saathoff, John F. Sheeran, C. Sheeran, Peter Super, Edward J. Setlock, Henry A. Setlock, Joseph A. Stanek, John Frank Sarroka, Marinus Sirnon; John Serras, address unknown; George Serras, address unknown; William Stockrt, address unknown; Horace P. Spencer, John J. Spekhart, W. E. Scott, Joseph W. Schoonmaker, Eric Schyling, Raymond Smith, Percival Smith, Michael Spinoso, Steven Sullivan, Robert Siebeking, Michael F. Seiller, Philip H. Simon, Frank Sovely, Charles F. Slaff, Charles Seluvitz, Edward Sczisch, Charles Schnits, John Sanko, Michael Slavin, Casimere Semkowiki, Fred Slaff, Frank Dondy, George Schevon, Thomas G. Stewart, George Stock, Robert Scott, Harold Sturges, Sidney Scudder, George Sahlin, Milton Schneider, George Speckhardt, Moe Spencer, James Snoop, Frank Szakacs, Louis Szecezel, Andrew Schaefer, Martin Schaefer, Stephen Staudt, Fred Sinnawell, Harry Elmer Stevens; John Brailly Scheel, address unknown; Sam Snowball, Louis Silverman, Ralph G. Stratton, Anthony Snyder, Moritz Schlosser, Clarence Gifford







Smith, Floyd Smith, William Spitzel, Dr. Frederick Sparrenberger, Joseph Super, M. Sofio, P. Sparasio, Thomas E. Speer, Louis S. Szojak, Frank Scudder, H. Springer, Stephen Tanzer, Martin S. Tanzer, James A. Traveers, Joseph Tuberceyck, Carl A. Tegenborg, Cornelius Troast, John Mohiar Tamraz, Benjamin Taub; Vincent Tricolo, address unknown; Gus Truham, Harry Temple, George Tomea, John Trebek, H. Hubert Taylor, William Terry, Salvatore Territo, Dr. Arthur H. Temple, Sherwood Toman, Frank J. Tollovitz, William F. Tense, Walter Towe, Sr., Fred W. Thomas, R. Tonato, John Tokar, Frank Tlustak; F. J. Terhune, no address; Ludwig Thoughts, George Tzer, George Tersank, Charles Telgovics, Harold B. Tunis, John Tack, William James Thordycraft, Vincenzo Travato, Tony Turissi, Domenico Turdo, Joseph F. Tibus; Doffy Tobaka, address unknown; Samuel J. Tucker, Aaron Troast, Joseph Taylor, David A. Taylor, John Tokesky, William Tense, Edward Tickelman, John C. Telmosse, Arthur A. Thum; Peter Tonas, address unknown; John H. Tyrell, Frank J. Tolnits, W. Avery Trow, Kurt Tilpher, Gus Truhan, Russell E. Twist, James H. Teeling; Alfred D. Tillman, Suffern, New York; Max Tohn, 55 East 117th street, New York; George C. Terry, Charles H. Taylor, Russell C. Towers, Karel H. Toll, George Thornton, Frank Tritt, Barend Tanis, Jack Tender, Arthur Thum, Joseph D. Tuers, Harold S. Thurber, Ignatius Ed. Tyburski, Vito Urgo, Mike Urban, Frank M. Uehlein, Jr., Sigmund Unger, Edward Uelling, William Urgo, Francesco Urgo, R. D. Vreeland, William Vander Clock, Cornelius Vander Clock, Charles Vaneck, Albert Van Orden, Abraham Vermost, Hubert Vogel song, Fred. J. Van Dien, Thos. H. Veech, John Vardhevit, Anthony Virga, John Van Ess, John Van Hoven, Henry Vanecek, Cornelius Vander Kloster, Thos. Vander Horn, Harold Van Orden, Ralph Van Uranken, Harold Van Winkle, Jacobus Vander Tulip; Tony Volonnini, 514 Paterson avenue, Wallington, N. J.; Henry Van Herwarde, Harold A. Van Duine, Julian Varettoni, Tony Visnefski, Henry Van Lenten, Albert Veech, Matthias Van Herwarde, Augustus W. Vennema, Israel Verner, Frank Virog, George L. Van Suskill; Marinus Vander Meyde, address unknown; Cornelius Van Houten, Valoise L. Varick, Russell Van Winkle, Henry Vespa, Adrian Vogelzang, John J. Van Heest, William Vanderbeck, Leonard Vanden Handle, Charles Van Hook, Frank Vander Hoven, John Vander Vliet, William Van Saw, James Vander Tulip, Garret Van Brookhoven, James G. Verrinder, William E. Vecsey, John E. Van Riper, Isaac Van Riper, Marinus Van Soest, John Vanderpile, John Visbeck, Noble Veech, Alexander Veech, Robert Veech, William Van Low, Fred Van Orden, Harry E. Vivian, Casper Vander Werf, Richard Van Splinter, Cornelius Van Ess, Dr. G. Van Schott, Jr., Capt. John Van Houten, Peter Van Lenten, John Vander Pyl, Peter Van Dyk, William Walsh, Frank J. Walsh, Joseph Wiewosak, William A. Maechter, Robert A. Webb, Stany Wojcik, Robert C. Whiting, Oscar Weiss, Charles Clinton Wilson, Joe Wiazik, Barney Warshaw, William Wilson, Ellsworth Wilson, Junior White, Albert Harold Walker, Rudolph Weiss, Walter H. Wiegand, Ed. Williams, Frank Joseph Woods, W. Russell Waldleigh, Antony Wysochi, John Weaver, Martin Waslewski, Henry A. Wilkinson, Clarence J. Wright, Henry L. Weinberger, Barney Warshaw, Frederick Wachter, Thaddeus Whittaker, Albert Whitelaw, Leo Wickowski, Robert E. Walsh, Irving Ed. Weinstein, Martin Witte, Jack J. Waller, Raymond J. Walker, Leo F. Wynne, John Walasz, John H. Wierenger, Joseph Wasilewski, George Leslie Wood, Leonard Wentik, John A. Wood, William J. Wilkins, Robert George Walker, Forand E. Walker, Charles Womersley, LeRoy M. Wells, William S. Weissert, Frederick Warner, Andrew J. Weaver, Walter Wunsch, Peter Woryk; John Wilk, address unknown; James Wilson, Antan Wallis, Howard Wentzel, Dr. D. E. Warren, C. B. Waterhouse, Joseph Weiss, Harry H. Webb, Tony Wallace, Harold Westervelt, Michael Walasz, Charles Albert Webb, Cornelius Wallis, Louis Wisnev, Frank P. Werling, Joseph Weinberger, Herbert Winter, Arthur L. Watson, Joseph Carl Warhurst, William J. Weiss, Stephen Wrozen, Carl August Wiklund, Joseph Windisch, Axel, Westervelt, Percy A. Woods, Dr. Samuel S. Wisnev, Jacob Willinski, Harry S. Woolley, John Walemnak, James P. Walden, Frank L. Woodhouse, Donald Winship, James S. Walker, Milton M. Woolley, John Walsh, Erwin Weil, Ralph C. F. Wettlaufer; George Walker, Arthur T. Wickers, Livingston A. Wilson, Barnett Willinski, Maurice M. Wheeler, Joseph Weinstork, Chris Wasdyke, William Wolf, Fred Waller, Arthur W. Wanklen, Harry Wilson, William H. Walker, Jr., Otto N. Weill, John Wlosck, Charles Waters, Stephen Waezynski, Herbert Westervelt, William Willis, Michael Wynne, Paul J. Wentink, Martin Watras, Stephen Wasco; Mike Yikovski, General Delivery, Pittsburgh; Bill Yashulefets, address unknown; Russell Young, Thomas Yenionowsky, Joseph Youmans, John J. Yonthas, John Yuhas, George S. Yerbury; Vincenzo Yuppa, address unknown; Paul Ziwijska, Joseph H. Zoschak, Thomas Zak, Frank Zalewski; Edward Zentner, address unknown; Francis Zacharer, Mike Zapuboozno, Sam Zinni, Michael Zoschak, Louis Zanetti, John Zhinniak, Wassil Zuk; Nicholas Zaharis, address unknown; Fred Zeim, Jr., John Zobar, Harry Zarrow, Marinus Zanolli, Ernest Zanetti, John W. Zacharer, Daniel G. Zandee, Andrew Zanetti, John E. Zank, John Zino, Frederick E. Zaumseil; Walter O. Zaumseil, 70 Clifton avenue, Clifton, N. J.; John Zagata, John Zingili, John Zank,

In addition there were those of Passaic who enlisted elsewhere in the English,



French, Canadian or Italian armies and navies. All told the total number of enlisted and drafted men was about 3,000.

#### SERVICE LIST—WOMEN.

Grace B. Banker, Marie E. Belknap, Margaret Cochran, Agnes Considine, Margaret F. Johnston, Gertrude Otto, Hannat Warshaw, Rose Wisnev, Louise M. Young.

#### THOSE WHO DIED

As was to be expected, not all returned. A large number remained behind; some on the fields in France and others among the poppies of Flanders, where they are and will be tenderly cared for so long as friends or relatives wish.

The following is a list (but not all) of those who gave their lives:

*The Hero Dead.*—Gerald V. Carroll, Lieutenant; Edward A. Lucas, Private, Company F, 209 Infy.; Joseph Lorino, Private; Harry Miller, Private, Com. A. 9th M. G. Bn.; Raymond J. Meade, Sergeant; William P. Handschuh, Private; Leo. C. Kaywood, Private; Robert R. Ratzer, Corporal; M. William Sullivan, Private 19 R. R. Engineers. Stephen Naughton, Corporal; Stephen V. Patrick, Corporal; Albert B. Danko, Private; Frank Spisak, Private; Anthony Truhan, Jr., Private; Fred. D. Fox, Private Company A, 114th Inf.; Joseph A. Synott, Private 47th Co. 5th U. S. M. C.; Harry Gatti, Private, Co. M. 114 Infantry; Benjamin H. Muth, Private; Elbert R. Gardner, Sergeant; John Maguth, Private; Leon C. David, Private Hq. Co., 76 F. A.; Louis Kolinsky, Private; Francesco Binanti, Private; Robert J. Kane, Private, Co. B. 334 F. A.; John J. Green, Jr., Private 5th N. J. Inf.; Richard J. Goggin, Private; Jerry Lagressa, Mechanic; Robert G. Benson, Master Eng., Hq. St., 807 St. Bn.; William B. Merselis, Jr., Lieutenant; James Dickson, Private; Robert S. Preiskel, Corporal Co. 1st Army Hq. Reg.; William Veech; Teofil Figula, Cook Co. A, 58 F. A.; Alfred C. Hirschom, Corporal, Co. A, 114 Inf.; Bennie O. Jansak, Corporal; John G. Koslap, Co. M, 309 Inf.; Bion M. McClellan, Private, 1st c.; John Menegus; Joseph Petish, Private, 1st c., Co. E, 418 Tel. Bn.; Alexander Drelich, Hq. Co., 18 Inf.; Sabastiano Patiso, Private, 1st c., M. G. Co., 7 Inf.; Thomas Zangara, Company F, 18 Inf.; James S. Brown, Sergeant, 1st c., 522 Amb. Serv.; Bruno Koch, Private, Co. K. 23 Inf.; Herbert C. Mashier, Private, Co. E, 57 Inf.; Michael F. Sciller, Private, Co. A, 114 Inf.; Louis Albezer, Private, Co. B. 147 Inf.; Cornelius Visbeck, Private, 1st c., 312 Inf.; John Hitchuk, Private, 36 Co., 153 Dep. Br.; John Wekie, Private Co. L. 61 Inf.; John Carl Mirak, Hospital 26 Co., 153 Dep. Br.; John Waszlowicz, Private, Co. E, 148 Inf.; Jacob Simon, Private, 26 Co. 152 Dep. Br.; John White, Private, Co. L, 116 Inf.; Carmeico Uricchio, Private, Co. C, 58 Inf.; Domenico Callesi, Private, Co. B, 312 Inf.; George Bocchino, Private, Bat. B. 308 F. A.; Joseph G. Agnelli, Seaman; David McKissock, Private; Robert Zimmerman, Lieutenant; Oswald Seifert, Private; Edward A. Grombacher, Seaman; Anson S. Hathaway, Lieutenant; Malcolm G.





Van de Water, Lieutenant, R. A. F., Canada; Charles D. Fuller, Private; Henry A. Krause, Corporal; Andrew J. Flick, Private.

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Governor Edwards announced Nov. 9th his orders for the reorganization of the National Guard. Passaic is to have two companies in the 114th Infantry, one to be Company A, "Passaic's own."

Three Passaic officers who commanded combat troops in France are going back into the guard. They are Captain Frederick E. Rohrbach, Lieutenant Grover P. Heinzmann and Lieutenant Abraham Kimmelman.

Captain Rohrbach, who took Company A from Passaic to the Mexican border, to Anniston, and finally to Boisd'Ormont in France, is slated to become major on the staff of the 114th Infantry's colonel, in charge of machine gun training.

Lieutenant Heinzmann, who was in command of Company B of the 114th at Ormont Wood, awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the decoration of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, is to regimental adjutant, with the rank of captain.

Lieutenant Kimmelman, who was in command of Company F in the same Argonne engagement, is slated to be plans and training officer of the 114th, temporarily. Eventually he may be captain of the new Company A, when it is formed in Passaic.

This is the way that the new slate is expected to work out:

The New Officer Personnel.—For colonel—Major W. E. Guthrie, of Elmhurst, Long Island. Major Guthrie is an overseas man who went over with the Canadians, won the Victoria Cross and Polish and French decorations, transferred to the 114th when the American troops reached France, and served through the Argonne offensive as a battalion commander in the Blue and Gray Division. He had command of the battalion which included Companies E, F, G and H. He is a Wall street broker and an officer of engaging and commanding appearance.

For lieutenant-colonel—Captain Albert Rickert, of Paterson. Captain Rickert commanded Company K of the old 114th in France. He is an officer who rose from the ranks and who had the confidence of all his men. He is in the phonograph business in downtown Paterson.

For Chaplain—The Rev. M. J. Corr, of Jersey City. Father Corr, who is pastor of St. Aedan's Jersey City, was the chaplain of the old 114th overseas, a real buddy of the old Fifth's men.

For regimental adjutant—Lieutenant Heinzmann, of Passaic.

Major, First Battalion—Captain William J. Reddan, now commander of the 102d Cavalry Troop (old B Company, reorganized). Captain Reddan, an Essex County officer, took Company B to France.

Major, Second Battalion—Major James Norton, Jersey City. Ma-





Major Norton has four Jersey City Companies now. He did not serve in the old 114th.

Major, Third Battalion—Major Eugene R. Geddes, of Passaic. Major Geddes, as now, will have headquarters in Paterson. He served years ago as an officer in the old Seventh New York. During the war, when the old Fifth New Jersey was mustered into federal service as the 114th, he recruited here a company of the State Militia, which, after the war, passed out of existence, its members going into Company H in the new National Guard. Company H, of the 113th, became a machine gun company, Captain Karel H. Toll taking command when Geddes became a major. The Governor's orders made it D of the 114th.

Then Major Norton will have charge of E, F, G and H. Major Geddes will be in command of four Paterson companies, I, K, L and M—the “milk battalion,” as soldiers call the third, on account of the four letters.

Captain Samuel Kilpatrick, formerly commander of D Company of the 114th in France, will have a Paterson company. Lieutenant Joseph Rath, formerly a sergeant in B company, later an aviator and first lieutenant, is coming back. So is Lieutenant Abraham Kimmelman, of Passaic, first, probably as a staff officer, then as a company commander.

Sergeant Joseph Burke, of Paterson, president of the 114th Infantry Association, is slated to be first lieutenant, in command of the Service Company, which includes the band and other detailed men.

Sergeant Edward Bloomer, of the Orange Troop, who was in old B Company during the war, is slated for a first lieutenantcy, in command of the Supply Company.

This infusion of overseas blood into the personnel of the 114th is expected to bring back the old spirit of war days before, and many of the men who served in the Fifth New Jersey. When Passaic gets its battalion armory—as it will soon—it will be able to provide easily for two companies of the 114th. Two were filled up here during the war—old A and M—as well as a part of the 114th Machine Gun and Supply Companies.

Major Eugene R. Geddes, of Passaic, now commanding the second (Paterson) battalion of the 113th, will command the third (Paterson) battalion of the 114th, with headquarters in Paterson. His battalion will consist of the present E and F Companies of the 113th, which will become Companies I and K respectively of the 114th; Company M of Bridgeton and Company L of Mount Holly, the latter two in place of the Passaic and Hackensack companies. The headquarters company, a unit of forty-two men under Lieutenant Newton, will continue in Paterson.

Company D, Passaic, formerly Company H, 113th; Second Battalion, headquarters, Jersey City, formerly Trenton.



## CHAPTER LIII.

### RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

*First Presbyterian Society of Passaic, New Jersey*—In compiling historical narrative of the First Presbyterian Society and their present church and congregation, it appeals to the editor that it might also be proper to refer to the village of Acquackanonk, as Passaic was called and generally known in 1866, at which period the foundation was laid for the formation of what is now the First Presbyterian Church, "The Presbyterian Society of Passaic."

The region of country which later became known as Passaic was first settled by Holland families between 1678 and 1684. It was in the former year that one of these Holland settlers obtained from the Indians a deed for land, located in what is now the present First Ward, in the city of Passaic. During the following year this same Holland settler acquired an additional deed for over 300 acres, situated in what is now the First and Fourth wards of the city of Passaic. In 1684 this Holland settler, together with thirteen others of his countrymen, acquired title to additional land which included all the remaining land in the region now comprising the present city of Passaic.

These Holland settlers, men and women, who located here with their families, were God-fearing, and above all else were strictly religious, these principles being wholly inborn in the minds and hearts of these pioneer settlers. The region of country wherein they builded and established their homes was a wilderness, inhabited only by the Indians, and one of their first acts was to establish a church, which they did about 1693; at the same time they also founded a school for religious and secular instruction. This church organization, which these Holland settlers established still survives, and has been known to the present day as the "Old Reformed." The school which they had established later developed into a district school, which finally became the foundation of our public schools of today.

Shortly afterwards this settlement, which was located at the head of river navigation, became the one great port for the shipping of the products of the iron mines, forests and fields for nearly the whole territory of northern New Jersey, and it became known as one of the most noted ports for water transportation north of the city of Newark. These shipping activities on the Passaic continued up to 1832, at which period the Erie railroad was constructed, which afforded the people increased facilities for transportation, and soon thereafter the little settlement of Acquackanonk became a sleepy village. While the village contained its original church and school house, it also had two taverns, and as many blacksmith shops and several general country stores. These establishments became chiefly dependent upon the patronage of the villagers and the farmers in the surrounding neighborhood.

This condition of business inactivity continued up to about 1860, when a number of enterprising men from the city of Trenton organized the Dundee Manufacturing Company, and at once proceeded to erect the noted Dundee dam, and constructed canals for water power purposes. About the same time, Charles M. K. Paulison associated himself with Dudley S. Gregory, (third), of Jersey City. They purchased farm lands in the Hill section of what is now part of the present city of Passaic, and laid out these lands for building purposes with streets and highways. These improvements greatly added to the desirability of these building lots for residences and attracted a new element of settlers from the city of New York, Brooklyn and elsewhere, who, far from being welcome by the older inhabitants, were treated with cold indifference, and were warned to keep their hands off and refrain from advo-





cating or even suggesting any improvements that would tend to increase the taxes.

The Civil War had only terminated a year before with its excitements, anxieties, cares and expenses, and most of these early inhabitants longed for quiet and rest, or at least until the affairs of the Government had become permanently settled. There was still a standing army, although General Robert E. Lee had surrendered a year before, and our beloved Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. The White House was next occupied by President Andrew Johnson, whose policies of government were yet to be worked out. The one great subject under heated discussion was the war and the reconstruction of the Southern States. One dollar in gold of our currency was worth nearly three dollars of paper money. Incomes were taxed. With these conditions to struggle with and many other matters calling for consideration, the old residents desired to be left undisturbed to think them out their own way, and they did not hesitate to say so. But the new element had ideas which were destined to transform the sleepy village into an active and progressive city. At that time one could stand at our present church door and view the green fields of grass and farm lands in every direction, with only a few scattered farm houses, and a few buildings yet standing on what is now Main avenue and Prospect street.

The Erie railway station was a small room in an old dwelling, now known as No. 578 Main avenue, with a platform in front along the railroad track. The village post office, which comprised a pigeon hole case of some two score receptacles for placing the mail, was in a grocery store, now known as No. 589 Main avenue. The voting citizens were required to go to the Notch tavern, three miles distant. The old district school, with its one teacher, and from sixty to one hundred scholars, was the best the village afforded at that time. Of churches there were five: The Old Dutch Reformed (1693), the True Reformed (which had seceded therefrom in 1825), the Methodist (1843), Episcopal (1859), and Baptist (1864). Of the later and newer settlers, many, if not a large majority of them, attended the Old Reformed church. Previous to this time it had been so with several denominations referred to above, from about 1825 to 1864. It was during 1866-67 that still another group among these settlers separated themselves from the mother church, and with others organized a Presbyterian church in the old village, which at that time did not number more than 750 souls.

It was during the spring and summer of 1866 that the question of organizing a new church was discussed very frequently by the people on the street, in the home, on the train, in the office, and at various meetings, and this discussion finally led up to a call for a prayer meeting to be held at Mr. John B. Pudney's residence, corner of Pennington and Gregory avenues, Wednesday evening, October 10, 1866. The minutes of the meeting read: "Informal meeting of those favorable to the formation of a new church, held at the house of Mr. Pudney. Present, Messrs. Pudney, Clarke, Willard, Orcutt, G. Denholm, Stewart, Thurston and W. A. Denholm. Mr. Crane of Boiling Springs, was also present."

At the next meeting, October 17, the number of persons was increased by the presence of Messrs. Richmond, Bartlett and Simmons. The question being raised as to the denomination of the new church, it was put to vote, resulting as follows: New School Presbyterian, six votes; Dutch Reformed, two votes; Congregational, two votes; Blank, one vote. A resolution was then passed "that immediate measures be taken to organize a New School Presbyterian Church in the village." The reason for this action is set forth in the following: "Preamble. Whereas, Owing to the recent rapid growth of the village of Passaic, the present church accommodations are totally insufficient. Therefore, resolved, that, with every respect and consideration for existing organizations, it is the sense of this meeting that the establishment of a new church is requisite and would be productive of great good."

It appears that the crowded condition of the old church necessitated either en-



At the meeting of October 31, 1866, it was decided to hold weekly prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings at the homes of the members of the Society. At this same meeting a finance committee of five was elected to serve until trustees would be elected. "Songs of Zion" hymn book was adopted November 14th. The meeting largement, or smaller audiences; this was indeed a unique condition existing among the people of the village. A more determined body of men than our pioneers it would be difficult to find. From this time on until the final organization, on March 6, 1867, meetings were held once a week to discuss matters, while public worship of the newly formed Presbyterian Society had begun on the first Sabbath in January, 1867.

of December 12, 1866, had as guests the Rev. Daniel W. Poor, D. D., Rev. Jonathan G. Stearns, D. D., and Elder James B. Pineo, of the Newark Presbytery, and the Rev. Henry Kendall, for many years secretary of the Board of Home Missions, who, after having been informed of what had been done, recommended that a petition be presented to the Presbytery for permission to organize. On January 2, 1867, a committee was appointed to present the above petition to the Presbytery. At the meeting held January 9th, the first board of trustees was elected, viz: Thomas C. Stewart, William F. Walker, William A. Denholm, William A. Willard and James S. Biddell, who on March 2, executed, and on March 13th, filed the certificate of incorporation according to the statute. The corporate name adopted was "Trustees of the Presbyterian Society of Passaic." This name has never been changed.

At a meeting of the trustees, held at Academy Hall, February 24, 1867, a motion was carried unanimously: "That Rev. P. F. Leavens be invited to preach for us one year from the first of March, at the salary of twelve hundred dollars."

The first meeting of the Society to elect elders and deacons was held at the residence of Mr. Thomas C. Stewart, February 27th, resulting in the election of George Denholm as elder for three years; Lewis W. Bartlett as elder for two years; William Blair as deacon for three years; George McGibbon as deacon for two years.

And now, after five months of work and careful planning, everything was ready for the formation of a church, for which purpose a meeting was held in Speer's Hall, on lower Main avenue, on the evening of March 6, 1867. This building, known as Speer's Hall, had become famous in the annals of this community. The building was upon the site where, until 1921 stood a low frame building on the west side of Main avenue, nearly in front of the former Old Reformed Church. This was, indeed, a historic and famous spot. Within the shadow of the great spire of that old church cluster memories that will die only with the remotest descendants of the old soldiers of the cross, who there assembled. It was in the adjoining house that General Washington spent a day and night. In this hall the first Methodist meetings were held, and it was there that the Methodist church of Passaic was organized in 1843. The next church to be organized there was St. John's Episcopal, in 1859. The Baptists were the next to be organized there in 1864, and in 1867 the Presbyterians added one more to the number. All of the churches there organized are today successful and thriving.

The meeting of March 6, 1867, was in charge of a committee from the Presbytery of Newark, of which were present: Rev. Dr. Poor, Rev. Dr. Stearns, Rev. Mr. Haley, Elders Mason and Pineo. The Rev. Mr. Haley, of Roseville, opened the meeting with prayer and reading of the Scripture. The Rev. Dr. Poor, of Newark, preached from Ephesians 1:23, which was followed by the organizing and ordaining service by Rev. Dr. Stearns. The minutes give the number of members admitted as twenty-four, males, nine; females, fifteen. But this is an error, as the actual number was twenty-two, although the original "List of Letters for Membership" in possession of the writer shows twenty-four, and reads as follows:





George Denholm, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Mary Denholm, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Pamela Bartlett, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Lewis W. Bartlett, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; James S. Biddell, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Maria S. Biddell, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Elizabeth C. Walker, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Sarah S. Simmons, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; William A. Willard, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Mrs. Mary T. Willard, R. D. Church, of Passaic, N. J.; Philanda E. Stewart, First Congregational Church, Toledo, O.; Mrs. Mary J. Byington, Congregational Church, Stockbridge, Mass.; William Blair, Presbyterian Church, Valatie, N. Y.; Lydia Blair, Presbyterian Church, Valatie, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary Biddell, Presbyterian Church, Valatie, N. Y.; Mr. William A. Denholm, Ainsly Street Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, New York; Mrs. Grace Denholm, same; George McGibbon, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. McGibbon, same.

These twenty names are written in ink. The following are written in pencil: Mr. Peter J. Ryerson; Mrs. Mary Ryerson; J. E. Pringle, R. D. Church, East Williamsburg, N. Y.; Mrs. M. Pringle, R. D. Church, East Williamsburg, N. Y. All are in the handwriting of Mr. Willard. A pencil line runs across each of the last two names, but when and for what reason is not noted thereon.

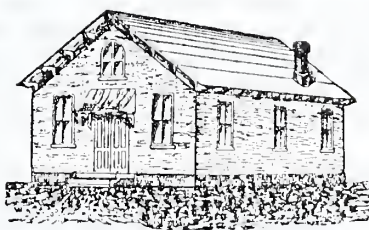
The Presbyterian Society, having been legally incorporated under the State law, and organized and ordained a religious body under ecclesiastical law, was now a full fledged church. In the meanwhile, beginning Sunday, January 6, 1867, religious services had been held. Dr. Charles C. Shaw, of Paterson, preached at the service held that day in the Methodist church, then standing on the site of the present Municipal building. The services on the next Sunday, the 13th, were conducted by Rev. William W. Holloway, Jr., of Dover, New Jersey. He who was to be their pastor for nearly thirty-eight years, Rev. P. F. Leavens, conducted the services on the next Sunday, continuing his work as home missionary until installed as pastor, January 17, 1868. These and all services until May 23, 1869, were held in a building used as a select school, then and still known as the Howe Academy. This building remained in its original shape, corner of Academy and Prospect streets, until 1919, when it was razed to make way for an apartment house.

The congregation occupied the upper or second story. The furniture was that used by a private secular day school, consisting of the teacher's table, which served for pulpit purposes, two benches, and about a score of board bottom chairs. In one corner a few shelves were in place for books of the church, and also of the Sunday school, which was inaugurated in February. A wood-burning stove stood to the left of the pulpit supplied with many yards of ill fitting, crooked pipe. A bell in the cupola sounded its pleasing call to worship at 10:30 a. m. and 3 p. m. The first communion service was held Sunday, May 5, 1867.

Rev. Philo F. Leavens accepted a call extended to him, November 14, 1867, and was installed January 17, 1868, at a salary of \$1,200. Deacons and elders were elected March 6, and on April 3, the session was organized. On May 30, 1869, in order to save rent money, the church took up quarters in another academy, so called, that of one of the members, Rev. John Kershaw, who conducted a classical school known as the "Riverside Institute" in a one-story frame structure at the northeast corner of State street and River street (Park place), which Mr. Kershaw offered rent free, indefinitely. This proved unfortunate for the reason that in less than half a year the institute closed its doors, and Mr. Kershaw removed to another town. He did not own the property, but held it under a lease. Although this building was no better than the old academy, the church might have continued there for years had not the owner signified his intention to remove the building, and requested possession. This building today is No. 343 Passaic street. Efforts were made to







FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD EDIFICES, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY  
AND CHURCH, PASSAIC, N. J.

1. HOWE ACADEMY, WHERE FIRST SERVICE WAS HELD, JANUARY, 1867
2. RIVER STREET CHURCH
3. PARK PLACE CHURCH, 1870-1886



secure other quarters. The only places available were on lower Main avenue, where it was not deemed desirable to locate a church, inasmuch as the finger of village growth indicated that the hub would be River street (Park place). Unable to secure suitable quarters, the little band decided to purchase a lot and erect a building. Accordingly, a deed was obtained for a plot of land ninety-five feet in width on River street (now Park place) corner of Exchange place.

It is in order here to state that in January, 1868, the Ayerigg Estate offered to donate the plot now occupied by St. John's Episcopal Church, which in a communication dated February 13, 1868, was accepted by the trustees. Because the location was considered too far out, no attempt was ever made to acquire the deed, nor build. Now, however, after purchasing the River street land, the trustees, at a meeting held January 3, 1870, decided "to express to Mrs. Ayerigg the regrets that we shall be unable to accept her munificent offer of a lot."

Immediately plans for an edifice were considered, and on July 1, 1870, one was adopted. In the meantime, pledges of contributions had been secured totalling \$2,610, to obtain which the congregation had been thoroughly canvassed. Contracts for building were executed, July 23, 1870, when operations began, and that without a dollar on hand, while the lot was covered by a \$4,000 mortgage, when purchased. Now began and continued for twelve years one of the hardest, toughest, and, at times, the most discouraging struggles a church could meet with. But with grim determination, led by a patient pastor, possessing good judgment and ability, and trusting in the Lord, the work went on. Dr. Leavens, speaking of the struggles of those early days, said:

"Progress was painfully slow; stronger churches had the lead, and there were more than the population required. It must have been some occult premonition of the future that kept the minister and the people together." The organization of the North Reformed church at this time caused the loss of several strong men and their families.

This church was completed in July, 1871, and the first service therein was held Sunday, July 23, when their pastor preached from 2d Corinthians v:17. The basement was used by the Germans on Sundays from 1873 to 1886, resulting in the organization of the First German Presbyterian Church of Passaic. The Hollanders used the basement from 1871 on week days for a school, and after the Germans vacated, conducted Sabbath services, and, while there, organized the Netherland Reformed Church, of Passaic, the present owner, who purchased the property in 1885. Because of the debts which were owing for construction, and the hard times following the great panic of 1873, the struggles of the little band were hard indeed. In 1881, unpaid bills were piling up, the interest on the mortgage and notes long overdue, and the pastor's salary unpaid for months. After so desperate a struggle, who could blame the old board of trustees for resigning, which they did. This was the crisis that an overruling Providence had provided for. Immediately, a new board was elected, consisting of William I. Barry, James S. Biddell, Dr. John C. Herrick, William W. Scott and Joseph H. Wright. Dr. Herrick was succeeded by William Abbott, and Mr. Biddell by Ebenezer K. Rose. Mr. Scott is now, 1922, the only survivor of that board. The board, led by that far-seeing Christian, William I. Barry, the most liberal friend this church ever had, fairly did wonders. Within a short time they had paid all old bills, interest, notes, and pastor's salary, made repairs and paid for them, assisted by Ladies' Aid Society and Young People's Guild, and within two years had paid off the mortgage, leaving, at the close of 1884, a balance on hand, something before unknown.

The next year the trustees conceived the idea of selling the property. With the assistance of their pastor, they devised a plan to dispose of the old and acquire a new church, and in the fall of 1885 they presented the matter to the congregation,





who without question acquiesced in the suggestion of the trustees, and authorized them to sell the old property, purchase the site of our present church, and erect this building. The next day the old property was sold, and in a few days the new site was purchased for what was received from the old property, viz: \$6,500, which represented the total wealth of the church at the end of eighteen years' effort.

Plans for a new church and Sunday school parlors were adopted. On March 29, 1886, the building was staked out, and immediately building operations were under way. In October, 1886, a bazaar was conducted, netting \$2,340. This was by far the biggest affair the church ever had. According to contract, the church was finished, being dedicated December 30, 1886, at a total cost of \$36,000, only \$10,000 of which remained unpaid, secured by a mortgage. And still there remained two important needs which began to develop as the church grew. One was to purchase a manse, and the other to erect a Sunday school hall. The dwelling house adjoining the church, now the manse, was purchased in 1893 at a cost of about \$9,000. It had been Mr. Barry's plan to raze this building, and erect in its stead a manse of stone to harmonize with the church. His sudden death on May 25, 1895, put an end to that plan.

The Sunday school hall, erected in 1897 at a cost of \$12,000, made complete all buildings necessary for the church and school. At that time the church was encumbered by a mortgage of \$10,000, but this in 1899 was, by the generous gift of Mrs. W. I. Barry, paid off, leaving the church property free of mortgage. As a fitting finish to all, a large memorial window was placed on the Passaic avenue side of the church, "To the glory of God and in honor of those who founded this church, A. D., 1867," which was unveiled on February 7, 1904. At the same time another window inscribed, "In Memory of William I. Barry, by his wife and children," was placed in position. Previous to this a small memorial window had been erected to the memory of Mrs. Fannie (Rose) Fish by her husband, William J. Fish. Her father, Ebenezer K. Rose, had been superintendent of the Sunday school and trustee of the church. Her husband had been treasurer of the church and deacon.

While the death of Mr. Barry had come as a great shock, the death of their beloved pastor, Dr. Philo F. Leavens, which occurred after a few days' illness, December 26, 1904, was the greatest calamity that ever befell the church. He had been their first and only pastor within a few days of thirty-eight years, and his people loved him so dearly that they mourned for him as only one can who has lost a dear, close friend. Following the death of Dr. Leavens, the church was without a pastor until March 4, 1906, when the Rev. James Dallas Steele, Ph. D., having received a call in December, 1905, preached his first sermon, following that call, which he accepted April 17. He was installed on May 8, 1906.

Among the many activities of Dr. Steele during his pastorate here may be noted: "The Weekly Calendar," a publication established by him, May 27, 1906, containing announcements, notices, and church news, in a condensed form. It has proved its usefulness many times. Mr. William W. Scott, the present editor, assumed charge of the paper in 1910. The Men's Brotherhood, (now Five Corners Club), was organized in October, 1906. The Leavens Memorial Window, unveiled March 10, 1907, depicting "The Sower" by Millet, was erected to the memory of Dr. Leavens, and is a true representation of the seed sowing by him. One year later, March 4, 1908, a Roll Call and Rally was held at which older members recounted experiences of their time, and related reminiscences of persons, places and happenings before they came.

For many years the need of a kitchen was felt. During 1910 one was erected and supplied with the necessary utensils and furnishings. On March 8, 1915, Mrs. Steele, the pastor's wife, was successful in organizing the Westminster Guild, an organization composed of young women. She also introduced the custom, for those



so desiring, of furnishing pulpit flowers in memory of a deceased relative. In the following October a Men's Bible class was formed, filling a long-felt want. Troop of Boy Scouts of America, thriving organization, was formed in 1911, of which Mr. Walter M. Eastman was first scout master. On Sunday, October 1, 1916, the new organ, which had just then been built at a cost of \$9,000, was used for the first time. The old organ had been used thirty years, twenty-six of which Mr. Ernest R. Moody was, and still is, the efficient organist and choir master.

Of the original twenty-two persons who organized the church it seems proper to pay more than passing mention.

Mr. George Denholm and wife came here in 1860 from Lodi, with Mr. Biddell. He was a plumber, the first to establish that business here. Until their deaths they continued to reside in Passaic, giving loyal support to the church. In early days Mr. Denholm taught in the Sunday school and was for many years an elder. She died in 1886, he in 1898. Mr. George Denholm, by his will dated at the time the church was incumbered with a big mortgage, bequeathed \$1,000 towards paying it off. But the mortgage was paid long before his death after which it required the Court of Chancery to decide that the church was entitled to the \$1,000, which was then paid. Lewis W. Bartlett and wife came here from Jersey City in 1862. Mr. Bartlett was another loyal supporter and wise counselor, although he advised against locating the church, in 1870, at the corner of Passaic and Lafayette avenues where St. John's Episcopal church now stands. He taught in the Sunday school, sang in the church choir, and was a most exemplary elder for many years until his death. Mrs. Bartlett also continued her interest until her death.

Sarah Shelp Simmons, wife of Mr. Henry P. Simmons, continued her membership until her death.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Walker was the wife of William F. Walker, who was interested in the founding of the church and one of the original trustees. He did not live long after the church was organized. She retained her membership until her death.

Mrs. Philanda E. Stewart was the wife of Thomas C. Stewart, who was among the founders and one of the original board of trustees. She taught in the Sunday school, sang in the church choir, and took a most active part in the church work until her death.

Miss Mary J. Byington came here from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and had charge of the primary department of a select school conducted in the Howe Academy, of which Hugh Campbell was principal.

In our Sunday school Miss Byington and Mrs. Stewart had charge of the smaller scholars. The former left Passaic in the Spring of 1869, and never returned.

William Blair and Mary, his wife, were related to Mr. Biddell. They continued active, he serving as elder during their stay in Passaic, whence they removed some forty years ago.

Mrs. Mary Biddell, the mother, and Miss Sarah Biddell, sister of James S. Biddell, while taking no active part, remained members as long as they lived.

Mr. William A. Denholm and Grace, his wife, came here from Brooklyn about 1864. Both were active members. He was an elder and the first superintendent of the Sunday school. They removed to Brooklyn in 1869.

George McGibbon and wife came here with W. A. Denholm. He was beloved of men, very gracious and friendly, who threw his whole energy into the work. He not only was a deacon and elder, and taught in the Sunday school, but the first organist. In those early days, when the church possessed no instrument, he made use of his own organ, which could be folded into so small compass as to be carried about, and so it came about that Mr. McGibbon carried that little instrument to and from church, Sunday after Sunday, for several years. He was an exemplary





Christian. Both were members at their deaths.

James S. Biddell and Maria S., his wife, settled here in 1860. Both were active, she in the Ladies' Aid Society, and he as trustee, deacon and elder, having served in the latter capacity continuously from 1887 to his death. When leaving, in December, 1916, to go South, he fully intended to return and assist, by his presence, at least at the semi-centennial celebration of the founding of the church. Because he was the sole surviving male organizer of the church, possessing a fund of knowledge unknown, in some particulars at least, to others, which he probably would have divulged, it was felt that his presence would have lent a fitting dignity and afford a crowning pleasure to the affair.

But, enfeebled by the sorrows caused by the death of his dear wife two years before, and by the death of an only daughter, October, 1916, he became seriously ill. While recuperating from this, he had hoped that the warmer climate of the South would hasten the restoration of his strength. Unfortunately, however, pneumonia developed, near the close of his visit there, and found him an easy victim, ending his earthly life, February 10, 1917.

By his will James S. Biddell bequeathed to the church \$1,000, the income of which was to pay the rent and keep in repair pew No. 22 in perpetuity, to be known as "Strangers' Pew."

On March 4, 5 and 6, 1917, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this church, appropriate services were held, including in pantomime scenes in real life of the founders in the routine of church work as also of the Sunday school. Mrs. Willard, sole survivor of the founders, was an actor here both in the church of 1867, and its reproductory scenes of 1917. For this occasion William W. Scott, Esq., wrote the history of the church and school which, with an excellent historic sermon by Dr. Steele, was published in pamphlet form, having a large circulation. Mrs. Willard died nine months later.

William A. Willard and Mary T., his wife, came here from New York in 1865, where he was engaged in business. He was an earnest Christian, and at all times busied himself in the work of the church and Sunday School, serving as elder, deacon and trustee in the church, and superintendent in the Sunday school, of which he was the first librarian. He was the standby for Dr. Leavens many years, and the best all-round man the church ever had. He died in 1903.

Mrs. Willard, the sole survivor of that band of twenty-two organizers, among whom she was the youngest, died December 15, 1917. She was president of the Pansy Mission Band after the death of her mother, Mary J. Thompson, who had presided over first the Daisy Mission Band, succeeded by the Pansies. She was an active member of the Ladies' Aid Society, Missionary Society, and had a class of girls in the Sunday school at the time of her death.

Among the pioneers, in addition to those already mentioned, who generously gave of their counsel, time, money and service, mention should be made of Thomas C. Stewart, Judge Simmons, William F. Walker, Henry McDanolds (who came in 1868), John A. Willett, Dr. John C. Herrick, John B. Pudney, Giles S. Orcutt, Silas F. Havens and William A. Gillen, who served as trustees. In addition, Mr. Pudney served as elder eleven years, and, upon his death in 1893, was succeeded in that office by his son, Charles, who served until his death in 1915. The latter served as treasurer of the session for over twenty years, and as its clerk nearly ten. Mr. Orcutt also gave many years of service to the Dundee Mission. Mr. John M. Morse served as elder.

Mrs. Leavens, the first pastor's wife, was a most helpful and efficient worker in nearly all lines of church work, among them that of the Ladies' Aid Society, the Foreign Missionary Society, of which she was president for a number of years. When the Junior Christian Endeavor Society was formed, she was the leader of the





young people, who loved her, and it was her beautiful Christian character that shone in her loving service, which drew the little ones to her, and made them wish to be near her. Even to this day, the glimmer of that love still reflects across the intervening years, reaching its effulgence in the lives of those now grown to manhood and womanhood, and who, because of her teaching and example, are today Christian men and women. But she did not stop with the young people. She was interested, with her husband, in all his work among the many families of the church, by whom she was looked upon as a co-worker. In a letter to the writer, shortly after his death, she said: "I did not realize how thoroughly my heart was in the work of the church until my husband was taken from me, when it all came over me, that by his death my work was finished too, no one but God knows the distress it caused me." Mrs. Leavens resides now in Newark, surrounded by her three children in homes of their own.

Of Dr. Leavens himself, it is impossible to do justice in the limits of this sketch. His works are his best commendation, which Dr. Steele fittingly refers to in his sermon of March 4, 1907.

Religious and secular activities in addition to the formal work of the pastor and session have been carried on by various organizations of the church.

First and foremost is that of the Ladies' Aid Society, organized February 16, 1870, with Mrs. J. S. Biddell, its first president. In 1873 the word "Missionary" was added to the name. In order to take charge especially of missions in foreign lands, the "Women's Foreign Missionary Society" was organized in 1877. Twenty-two years later, in order to include home missions, the name was changed to the "Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society." The presidents have been: Mrs. P. S. Pruden, Mrs. J. C. Herrick, Mrs. P. F. Leavens, Miss Caroline S. Pudney and Mrs. Alexander M. Turner.

The Ladies' Aid Society began, immediately after its organization, to take a personal interest in domestic matters of the church, assuming the care of the furniture, carpets, cushions and draperies. The Society, always on the alert, often made suggestions for improvements, and never hesitated to give assistance required.

In 1880, a two days' bazaar was held in the armory of Military Company B, National Guard New Jersey, which netted about \$600. Three years later, festivals realized about \$200 more. When subscriptions to four blocks of \$5,000 each for the new church of 1886, this society, with the Sunday school, came in on the first block, each pledging \$1,000, which was paid. A volume could be written not alone of the Society, but of its members, many of whom were most capable women, faithful and efficient. The Society continues its good work today.

There were other missionary agencies, viz: The Girls' Mission Band, formed in 1870. In 1880, the Children's Missionary Society was organized under Mr. Willard. In 1882 the name was changed to the Sabbath School Missionary Society. Then came the Daisy Mission Band, with Miss Louise Williams, president, which, as Dr. Leavens said, in due time went to seed, and produced in 1884 the Pansy Mission Band under the leadership of Mrs. Thompson, the mother of Mrs. Willard. The younger women selected a field for activity, and in 1884 organized the Young Ladies' Mission Band with Miss Helen L. McDanolds, president. In 1894 the "Little Light Bearers" society was organized, with Mrs. Seymour Strong as superintendent. These many societies, under the inspiring influence of Dr. Leavens, earned for the church the distinction of "Missionary Church." At present the church supports, as it has for a number of years, a missionary and his family in India.

In 1882 the younger members of both sexes, in order to combine their efforts, organized with the writer as president, the Young People's Guild, which raised for the expenses of the church hundreds of dollars, and put in all the windows, stained or colored glass. Later it was merged in the Christian Endeavor Society, organized



September 10, 1887, with Enos Vreeland president. A monthly paper was published in 1892-1893, of which Miss Helen McDanolds and Miss Meriel Willard were the editresses. Mr. L. W. Manchee was business manager and very prominent in young people's work.

This church gave very material aid in the establishment of the Dundee Mission, the Garfield Church and Wallington Chapel, in whose first official boards were men of our church, loaned, as it were, for the purpose, and who remained with them until firmly established; in the case of Dundee Mission, our men and women continued actively engaged until the organization of the Dundee Presbyterian Church, to which their energies were devoted down to the time the church and school ceased activities in Dundee and removed therefrom. Grace Church became its successor. Assistance was also given in establishing a church at Delawanna in 1897, but because nearly all of the resident supporters moved away it closed for lack of support, and the church building was sold in 1901. The families remaining attend the Lyndhurst church.

In the early days Dr. Leavens gave much time and effort to Clifton, preaching there regularly in the district school house. This church was, therefore, the pioneer in Christian work in Clifton, Delawanna, Dundee, Garfield and Wallington.

The limits of this sketch forbid dwelling more at length upon the efforts of those men and women who labored for the success of the Gospel in this branch of the Lord's vineyard, of their struggles, disappointments, and discouragements, as they stood shoulder to shoulder with their pastor, Dr. P. F. Leavens, culminating in the establishment of a church, which now stands foremost among the churches of our city; which work was continued by Rev. Dr. James Dallas Steele, and his wife, a most helpful companion to him, until December 31, 1916, when he resigned his charge, which at this writing (June 13, 1922), is still vacant.

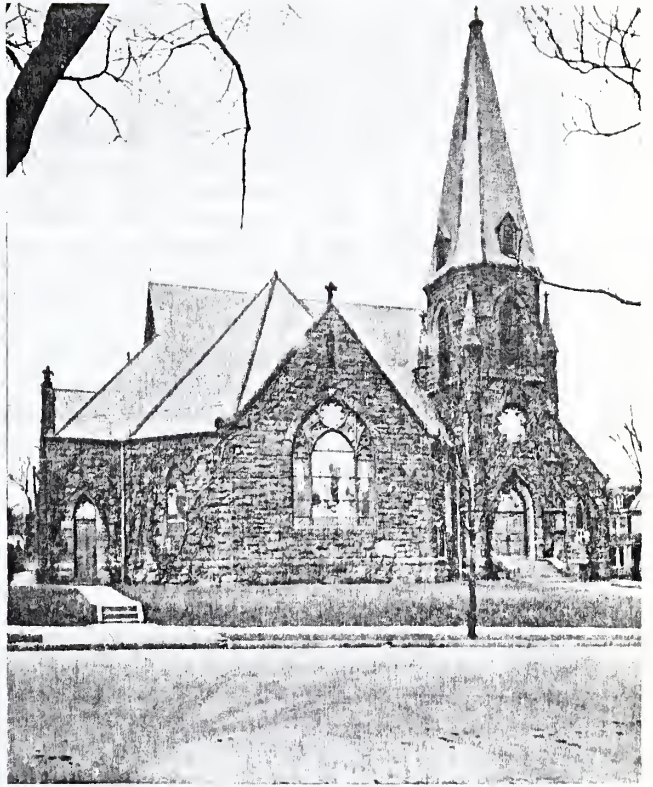
The exact date of the organization of the Sunday school of the First Presbyterian church is so far unknown. All we know is that it was some Sunday in February, 1867, and in the old Howe Academy. William A. Denholm was the first superintendent; Mr. Willard, librarian; Mr. George McGibbon, secretary; and Mr. George Denholm, treasurer. The teachers were: Mr. Denholm, Mr. McGibbon, Mr. Lewis W. Bartlett, Henry P. Simmons, Mrs. Thomas C. Stewart, Miss Louise Simmons and Dr. Leavens. Unfortunately, no records are in existence to tell us particulars we would so much like to know. In May, 1869, the school followed the church in its removal from the Howe Academy to the corner of State and River streets. Here it gained in strength and became very popular with boys and girls who attended other schools in the forenoon, and came here in the afternoon. Among the new teachers who entered at this time (1869-1871) were Mrs. Demarest (wife of Rev. William A.), and her daughters, Miss Maria and Miss S. Elizabeth, Miss Nettie Simmons and Mrs. Mary Lee Demarest. Miss S. Elizabeth Demarest presided at the organ, succeeding Mr. George McGibbon, who had hitherto led the music. Mrs. Mary Lee Demarest was the author of "My Ain Countrie" and many prose articles which were published after her death in a volume entitled "Gathered Writings." By her will she gave \$500 to our church, in trust, the income to be used in missionary work in Dundee.

pastor as superintendent, and he by Mr. George McGibbon and William A. Willard and John M. Morse, who continued such until the school followed the church in 1871 to the new edifice on Park place. Mr. Morse (as well as Mrs. Demarest) was a poet, and attained considerable fame as such, composing several volumes of verse.

Whether, because of a change of location, or changing from afternoon to morning session, soon after entering the new church—but probably the latter—the attendance was reduced by more than one-half, and while there was, at first, no scarcity of teachers and officers, scholars were lacking. In fact, the teaching efficiency was







REV. PHILO F. LEAVENS, FIRST PASTOR  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY AND CHURCH, PASSAIC, N. J.



increased, as there came into the school Mr. John B. Pudney, his son Charles, and daughters, Miss Mary, Miss Caroline and Miss Charlotte. The latter, still teaching, has seen continuous service since 1871. At that time, there came Mr. William I. Barry, who became secretary, and his sister, Nellie, who became the wife of the pastor, Mr. Leavens.

The next superintendent was Mr. John Cooper, who, with William Wright, a successful teacher, made a strong team, and caused the school to grow and prosper. Among the classes was one of the young men taught by that Mother in Israel, Mrs. P. Pruden, whose teaching and influence followed the boys as they grew to manhood, who developed into some of the best men of our town. Mr. Cooper was followed by Mr. William M. Barr, and he by Mr. John B. Pudney, Charles M. Wilcox (who later became leader in both Sunday school and church work in Dundee, assisted by Mr. Willard). Mr. Ebenezer K. Rose, subsequently a trustee, succeeded Mr. Wilcox. These last two were of the newer element which, about 1884, began to come in, and because of their desire and willingness to work, the school took on, as it were, a new growth which in a short time placed the school again among the leading ones of the city. Mr. Wilcox was followed by Mr. Morse, who thus, for the second time, became superintendent, as did also Mr. Rose again in 1886.

During the construction of our present church the Sunday school was held in the Baptist church. Among the superintendents after locating in the present church were: Messrs. William A. Willard, George A. Milne, Robert D. Kent, George K. Rose, V. Fiske Wilcox, Harold M. Swan, Enos Vreeland, Alfred Murray, Henry Wiegand, Sumner Blakemore and Walter M. Eastman; Alfred Murray served eight years here following eight years as superintendent of the Dundee Sunday school; Robert Appleton, William H. Chorlton, and Alfred Murray, the present incumbent. The school is in a flourishing condition, well officered and the work capably planned.

Because of the loss of the early records of the school it has been impossible to obtain detailed information. What has been stated above is from recollections of the experiences or knowledge of individuals. The writer entered the school in February, 1867, besides whom there are a number still living who began at the beginning.

The church has been interested in the Wallington Presbyterian Sunday school, of which our Mr. Hugh McQueen has been the faithful, earnest superintendent for the past twenty odd years.

During the World War seventy-nine men and three women were enlisted in the public service, of whom two, Robert Granger Benson (youngest son of Mr. Robert Dix Benson), and Francis Foster, lost their lives. Lloyd Bogert reported killed, made his startling appearance in church on a Sunday morning three years later, during which he had forgotten to write his folks, while he travelled abroad.

Dr. Steele began his ministry under most favorable conditions, which continued harmoniously for eight years, or until after his trip to the Holy Land, February 1 to April 10, 1914, when he was made aware that rumors were floating about charging him with plagiarism and with having taken the Holy Land trip without permission, becoming lax in his duties and neglecting visitation. On May 14, 1914, at the call of Dr. Steele, a joint meeting of the session, deacons and trustees was held to consider charges based on these rumors, at which Dr. Steele denied any intention of plagiarizing the sermons of Dr. Jowatt and other eminent divines, although admitting that at times he had followed rather closely their lines of thought. He proved that he had obtained permission to take the trip, and pleaded for time to make all visits. The result was exoneration from all charges. But this was unsatisfactory to his enemies, four of them in the session, who for nearly another period of eight years, attempted to force him to resign or to expel him. Early in February,





1920, Dr. Steele passed through a critical illness which it was thought would terminate fatally. During the critical period, there were nearly 200 telephone calls to learn of his condition. Just previous to this sickness, his salary was increased \$500, and upon recovery he was given \$1,000, and yet his enemies wanted him to resign and were so persistent that at a meeting of the official board, April 12, 1921, he announced his intention of resigning as soon as he could secure another charge. To this there was no objection expressed. On May 29, 1921, Dr. Steele read his resignation from his pulpit. At a meeting of the congregation called for June 8, to vote on the question, seventy-six voted to accept and eighty-nine to refuse to accept, which was unsatisfactory, as it showed a divided congregation. Dr. Steele grasped the situation and was instrumental in calling a meeting of the congregation for September 28, at which, through the moderator, he stated that his resignation would not be withdrawn, whereupon a motion to accept was unanimously adopted, to take effect December 31, 1921, on which date Dr. Steele left the church and city.

Rev. J. Gordon Holdcroft, a Korea missionary, on furlough, was engaged as stated supply for six months, at the expiration of which, or soon after, a permanent pastor will be secured.

During Dr. Steele's pastorate of fifteen years and ten months, from March 4, 1906, to December 31, 1921, there were 444 new members added to the roll, 281 funerals, 248 baptisms, 192 marriages, 1,352 sermons preached, and over 6,000 pastoral visits made. The total membership at this writing is about 550, with a Sunday school enrollment of 376.

The Jubilee Sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Steele, on Sunday, March 4, 1917:

Fifty years ago a tender vine, weak, but of good quality, was planted in Passaic soil. We have reason to believe it was of the Lord's planting. It had hardships to endure, almost insurmountable difficulties to overcome. But it must have been one of the hardy varieties. It was watched over tenderly, prayed over, given a good under-gardener whose devotion for thirty-eight years was indefatigable. He took a personal pride in its growth and today it stands among other vines in the Lord's vineyard sturdy and strong, fifty years old, bringing forth fruit of beauty and taste. For that vine in our little parable is none other than the First Presbyterian Church of Passaic, New Jersey.

You have seen, no doubt, a vine spreading beyond and over the vineyard wall and taking a fresh start outside the wall. Somewhat analogous to this situation was it with our vine. As the preceding historical sketch intimates this part of the Passaic Valley was originally settled by the Netherland Dutch, and the old Church was the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Acquackanonk. The old building still stands down by the County bridge, occupied now by an independent Polish Catholic congregation. The late Elder William A. Willard came out here with his family from New York and started a little Bible school in the Old Howe Academy, which was then on the outskirts of the village. It grew a little during the summer that he tried the work, and he went before the Consistory of the Old Dutch Church and made a respectful request for an appropriation of \$20 for this mission and extension work. The Consistory listened to him and then one said: "This young man is a stranger among us. We do not know if he will stay here long. I move not to grant his request." This was fifty years ago, but it would seem as if the little band that started the First Presbyterian Church were in a way crowded out of the old church and, like young birds, pushed out of the old nest, they found their wings and learned to fly on their own account. To return to original metaphor the vine, crowded out, resolved to take root in a new soil. The New School Presbytery of Newark was appealed to.

Mr. John B. Pudney had come to Passaic from Newark and was superintendent at the Boiling Spring Bleachery, now Carlton Hill. Dr. Daniel W. Poor, of the High Street Presbyterian Church, Newark, had been his pastor there, and Elder Pineo was from that church. Dr. Henry Kendall was secretary of the Home Mission Board in New York. These men were called in council and advised the formation of the new organization. Dr. J. N. Stearns was pastor of Old First Newark Presbyterian Church on the green. This organization had been there since 1666. So, deep in the past, the roots of our vine were planted. These wise counsellors saw the possibilities of growth and fruit. And to the twenty-two pioneers who had faith, who could see beyond the present, all honor and gratitude today by us who have succeeded them. Because of their vision we have a jubilee year to celebrate. We bless a favoring Providence who has preserved with us till this





day the youngest of these charter members, Mother Mary T. Willard, who came here a young wife, and whose Christian walk and conversation have been a benison to her family and to all who know her. Blessings upon her.

There were other vines of different varieties, all shoots, in a way, of the Old Dutch vine of 1693, the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Acquackanonk, the Methodist Episcopal (1843), St. John's Protestant Episcopal, (1859), and the First Baptist (1864).

Let us look for a moment at the soil of history in which our vine took its start. Those were the drastic days of the Reconstruction period. Andrew Johnson was President in succession to the martyred Lincoln. He was once a tailor's apprentice in Tennessee, and he was indebted to his wife for teaching him to write. March 2nd, 1867, the Tenure of Office bill was passed over his veto, and the same date Congress passed the "iron law." The secession country was divided into five districts and placed under military rule, there to remain until certain conditions were fulfilled. These conditions in brief were the calling of a state convention by the loyal citizens, blacks included; the framing by the convention of a constitution on franchising negroes; the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment by the new Legislature. Having conformed to these prescriptions the State might be represented in Congress and consider itself fully restored to the Union. Not till January 30, 1871, were all the States again represented in both Houses of Congress as in 1860. The elections of 1866 were uniformly favorable to Union Republicans and gave them a two-thirds majority in both House and Senate.

A fierce quarrel developed between President Johnson and this Congress. This led to his impeachment. The resolution passed the House, February 24, 1868, the month after Dr. Leavens' ordination to the ministry here. The trial of the President began March 5, 1868. May 16th the test vote came in the Senate as a court. Thirty-five Senators voted for conviction and seventeen to acquit, and a change of one vote would have carried conviction. The Senate adjourned *sine die* and a verdict of acquittal was entered. The Johnson Congressional conflict proved one of the most mortifying episodes in our country's history. William M. Evarts, Esq., was President's counsel, and there was a glittering array of legal talent on both sides.

In these troublous times our vine was planted. High food prices prevailed just as they do at his writing. Men and women of courage and faith they must have been. As James S. Biddell, recently gone to his reward, used to say "Our venture seemed most audacious in the face of the discouragements." He often gave thanks for what God had wrought. As to world politics, Prussia had humbled Austria and Saxony in the summer of 1866 and began to loom large on the horizon of history. Soon an united Germany, under Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm I, were to defeat the French Empire in 1870, establishing the hegemony of Prussia in the German Confederation, and indirectly leading to the establishment of the third and present French Republic. As we meet this morning millions of men are killing and maiming each other in deadly conflict along miles and miles of trench front, and even the highway of the sea is menaced by the unseen peril of the modern submarine. We may be far from the scene of world-war, but, with bated breath, we know not how soon God's Providence may call us, like other nations, to the great sacrifice. We wait and wonder whether "government of the people, by the people and for the people" is to perish from the earth. "The times are out of joint." What Providence designs we cannot see, we do not know. We shall know hereafter.

But to keep to the thread of our story. We admire to the full the pioneer progressive spirit of the original twenty-two organizers of this New School Presbyterian Church. Our country will suffer a great loss if the pioneer spirit shall pass away. We find in the early elements, composing this group of earnest Christians, the sturdy New England stock, which, since Plymouth Rock, has been the backbone of American civilization; some of Old England, too, and a strain of Scotch.

The Old and New School division of the Presbyterian Church had taken place in 1837, growing out of the trial of Dr. Albert Barnes for heresy. The New School Presbytery, in these parts, was known as the Presbytery of Newark; the Old School as the Presbytery of Passaic. When our church was organized, in 1867, there was a tendency to heal the old breach, and, after the Re-Union in 1870, the various congregations of both Presbyteries became the Presbytery of Jersey City, Jersey City, at that time being the principal center of the Presbytery having oversight of the congregations in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties. Our Presbytery now numbers fifty-nine ministers, forty-five churches, and 13,555 communicants. We may link our vine as an offshoot of Old First Newark, at the mouth of the Passaic river, dating back to 1666, and a New England colony under Robert Treat. If the Netherland Dutch settled this part of the Passaic Valley our old Presbyterian vines go back to the mouth of the river and find their roots prior to the settlement of the Dutch in Acquackanonk. The circumstances remind one of the days of Nehemiah and his faithful band building the walls of Jerusalem. Those opposed to him said of his wall "if a fox go upon it, it will fall." But it did not, neither did this 1867 enterprise fail. Some who were at first interested in the new organization held by the old church, hesitated to leave an old established church for what seemed



a foolhardy venture in ecclesiastical organization. It ought to be said, perhaps, that the Reformed Church in America is Presbyterian in government, and our own Presbyterian Church is Reformed in doctrine, so the difference today is not great, and we may well hope and pray for the union of all churches of the Reformed faith holding the Presbyterian system. But this was fifty years ago. The lines were drawn more sharply than today. Men today are not specially interested in theological controversy. Apostolic succession, the amount of water used in baptism, the form of church government cease to stir the tempers as they once did. The questions today concern efficiency and the helping on of the Kingdom. But our pioneers in choosing the Presbyterian Church for their overseers made no mistake as time has proved. It is democratic in form and so suited to the genius of this new country, for, while Presbyterianism is a government of presbyters, or elders, no vital step is settled save by a vote of the people, male and female. In the earlier years of our organization only men could vote for trustees. All this has been changed by later enactments.

The first elders were George Denholm and Lewis W. Bartlett. The grandson of the first, Edwin Denholm, is with us, and the daughter of the second, Mrs. William I. Barry, leads our women in Aid work. The first deacons were: William Blair and George McGibbon. The daughter of George McGibbon, Miss Lilly McGibbon, is with us to this day. The first Board of Trustees consisted of Thomas C. Stewart, president; William F. Walker, William A. Denholm, treasurer; William A. Willard, secretary; James S. Biddell. The daughter of William F. Walker, Miss Margaretta C. Walker, is still on the roll of our communicants. The family of William A. Willard is with us today, his son and namesake being now an elder in the Athenia Reformed Church. The niece of James S. Biddell, Miss Addie L. Biddell, writing under date of February 24th, says: "Dear Uncle James, how determinedly he planned to be back in Passaic in time to participate in the Jubilee celebration. All my arguments and efforts to keep him in the South until later were wasted. When I would ask him, laughingly, if he was listening, he would look so roguish and say: 'Yes, but it goes in one ear, and out of the other.' So I finally decided I might as well submit to the inevitable. God called him to a higher celebration, February 10, this year, while he was visiting a brother, William J. Biddell, in North Carolina."

An appendix to this souvenir of our celebration preserves the succession of these three boards so vital to the complete organization of every Presbyterian congregation.

As early as April 4, 1867, a committee of trustees, consisting of Stewart and Biddell, was appointed "to see what can be done toward securing a proper location for a church."

When Dr. Leavens was sent out in January, 1867, from Union Presbyterian Seminary, in New York City, by Dr. Hitchcock, the president, the directions were: "I have a call for a young man to go to Passaic, New Jersey." I do not know where it is. I have looked on the map and in the railway guide and can find no trace of it. The only directions I can give are to buy a ticket to Passaic on the railway leaving New York at the foot of Chambers street and ride till you come to it. Changed times in 1917, for now Passaic is well known in New York as an important part of the Metropolitan area. Mr. Biddell, in his reminiscences given in 1908, speaks of Dr. Leavens, thus: "God sent us a man after His own heart as our first pastor, of whom I need not speak as he was endeared to all of us. I well remember his first trip to Passaic, as I was delegated to meet him. It was snowing gently as he stepped from the train, and he laughed as I let down the bars at the head of Washington place to take him to my home across the field a few steps. We met on Sunday on the upper floor of the Old Academy, which was used as a school room during the week, where elders, deacons and trustees had to take off their coats and sweep, dust, build their own fires, and carry in and out the baby organ that is now replaced by a larger one, thank the Lord. Those were trying times they were living in, after one of the most gigantic wars in the world's history," Mr. Biddell so wrote in 1908. "There was no money for sexton's hire, with coal \$14.00 a ton, and flour \$12.00 a barrel. Each had to take his turn; there were no drones."

Dr. Leavens was a licentiate of the Congregational Association of New York and Brooklyn when he came to Passaic, and the first communion therefore of May 5, 1867, to which William W. Scott, Esq., refers in his historical sketch, was conducted by Dr. Charles D. Shaw, of Second Paterson. Dr. Leavens preached his first sermon in January, 1867, and he continued in uninterrupted spiritual leadership of the congregation till his lamented departure to the better life, December 26, 1904. He came of sturdy Vermont stock, from up near the Canada line. He graduated from the University of Vermont, which later honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity. His theological studies were taken at Union Theological Seminary, New York, at that time a Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the New School branch, Princeton being Old School.

"The just shall be had in everlasting remembrance," and the mark of Dr. Leavens' life, an example, is to be found on our older members—a mark which time cannot efface. He built on no other man's foundation. He was broad-minded, sympathetic, a wise counsellor, devoted to every good work. He served on the Board of Education, the General Hospital Board, the Charity Organization. In the old Civil War days he, like





my own father, who was a clergyman, too, did his part in alleviating the suffering of the soldiers, as men and women are today doing on the battlefields of Europe. He came to Passaic in the flush of a great missionary call, and that enthusiasm communicated itself to his work and his self-denial. In a sermon preached March 6, 1892, the twenty-fifth anniversary of our organization, he says, *inter alia*, "This church wants to enter its second quarter of a century floating the banner of generosity. What we have given has not hurt us. As God shall prosper us we proceed in the same straight way. We are open to conviction about tithing our incomes." Some of the dreams of that sermon came true. Then we had been five years in this new building. Next year the manse and large lot adjoining were purchased. In 1897 the Sunday school hall was erected. Today we almost wish it had been built beside the auditorium, with a partition which would communicate with the auditorium. A hall was needed twenty years ago, though, and its fine truss looks like one of the banqueting halls in Old Hampton Court palace. Perhaps some changes can be made to adapt it to modern Bible school needs without harming the fine lines of construction. The mission work in Dundee, under way as early as 1886, was organized as an independent church that very year. Afterward, in 1910, the Presbytery consolidated the work with the mother church.

"We will not fret, but to do good and to communicate we will forget not." Since 1903, when Mr. David McConaughy addressed us in that interest, we have maintained a parish abroad, in India, a few years back making a material increase in the salary paid our Rev. Walter J. Clark, M. A., now at Lahore. We remember his visit with us in 1913 when on furlough with his wife and family.

In 1906, I was drawn to this church, because of its foreign missionary interest, and I firmly believe the church is better for the enlarged vision that takes in our Lord's world commission. Dr. Leavens compares the fruitful church to the fig tree, of which it is said that its branches may bear at the same time ripened figs and opening blossoms. In my opening thought, as you may remember, I have used our Lord's simile of the vine. Dr. Leavens' sympathy with the distressed and poor is not overdrawn in Goldsmith's picture of the village preacher:

"His house was known to all the vagrant,—  
He chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain.  
The long-remembered beggar was his guest,  
Whose beard descending swept his aged breast;  
The ruined spendthrift, now no longer proud,  
Claimed kindred there, and had his claims allowed;  
The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,  
Sat by his fire, and talked the night away.  
Wept o'er his wounds, or, tales of sorrow done,  
Shouldered his crutch, and showed how fields were won.  
Pleased with his guests, the good man learned to glow,  
And quite forgot their vices in their woe;  
Careless their merits or their faults to scan,  
His pity gave ere charity began.  
Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,  
And even his failings leaned to virtue's side;  
But in his duty prompt at every call,  
He watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all.  
And as a bird each fond endearment tries  
To tempt its new-fledged offspring to the skies,  
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,  
Allured to brighter worlds and led the way."

When we first occupied the manse we often met some of the "vagrant train" who claimed acquaintance with the good man who had been our predecessor for so many years, and the down and out still make a path to the door. I believe he had some doubt for a few years as to whether he would make Passaic his life work, but he became a part of the church and of the city, and he and his co-temporaries laid here foundations broad and deep. Truly other men have labored and we have entered into their labors. The great forward step was taken when this lot at the corner of Passaic avenue and Grove terrace, once a tennis court, was secured from its New York owner in 1886, after the sale of the Park place property, and the congregation proceeded to erect this permanent structure. There was an auction of pews before the opening at the end of 1886. The great bazaar Mr. Scott has already touched upon. During the twenty years formative period of the church it was not all smooth sailing. One of the records shows that at one time all the trustees resigned over some difference about a site with members of the congregation, and an entirely new board came into office and guided the temporal affairs.

It is also perfectly evident that in those early days the salary of the pastor was not paid with the regularity and promptness of the present business management. The church struggled with a load of debt, but they were brave and they won out. I suppose as long as human nature is unsanctified there will be differences of opinion. All cannot be of the same mind. Euodias and Syntyche will angrily differ; Alexander, the copper-smith, will do some harm; Diotrephes will want place and power. The Apostle Paul had



his difficulties and discouragement, and it has come to my ears that Dr. Leavens had his troubles like every other pastor. It is part of the discipline of life, and we would grow effeminate if there were not something of struggle in life. But with all the eddying currents here the main stream flows on like a river to gladden the city of our God.

December 26, 1904, the beloved spiritual leader was called away from earth to his reward on high. Of him I can believe it was said "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." A year of vacancy followed. The late Rev. James Scott Young, of Garfield, with his wise counsel moderated the session, and during the year over twenty young people confessed their faith in Christ. One Lord's Day afternoon in December, 1905, I observed the Select Pastoral Committee, Messrs. Kent, Blanchard and Cuddeback, in the Twelfth Street Reformed Presbyterian Church, and that same evening those three faces were in the audience in the Scotch Presbyterian Church at Ninety-sixth and Central Park West. Some days later they made an appointment to meet me at a conference to be attended at the Episcopal board rooms on Fourth avenue, New York City. I want to say that their examination was thorough, and in the interests of the congregation they were representing even to the illustrating of the Scripture verse, "the very hairs of your head are all numbered." The larger pastoral committee of nine recommended my name to the congregation after I had preached my first sermon here, about Christmas time. I recall the text was John 3:16. The congregation that last week of 1905, a year from Dr. Leavens' death, voted to call me unanimously from the Metropolitan field where I had been nearly fifteen years. This old Covenanter church, of which the New York organization dated back to 1790, had been the church of my fathers on both sides of the house, and, like Dr. Leavens, I had to face the question of a denominational change, while remaining in the same Reformed family of churches. The suburbs and their more open life appealed to me as a place of residence. I didn't know the difficulties of suburban church life. However, I am glad I accepted the call and have enjoyed the experience of working with you. I hope I have not attempted to be a "Lord of God's heritage," but have rather been "a helper of your joy." Some things have been attempted and achieved, as the preceding historical sketch will show. There was a floating debt of \$2,700 when I assumed charge. The manse has been made over, the Leavens' memorial window put in, and the floating debt partly paid. In 1910 the entire building was decorated and altered. Next came a new heating plant, a new spire, parlors made over in 1915, and the great new organ, with its beautiful tones, in 1916. Still things are needed. Recently the property committee of the board of trustees have given gifts, Mr. Benson giving the Benson bulletin board, and Messrs. Morgan and Barry giving the organ lights. We greatly need increased space in the church for our Bible school pupils at morning worship. Some plan ought to be devised for increasing the pew space. I trust the spiritual interests have kept pace with, or better, gone beyond the temporal in advancement. The Men's work began in 1906; Boys' work, 1910; Westminster Guild for Young Women in 1915. Perhaps another organization is needed for women to meet the needs of a certain age.

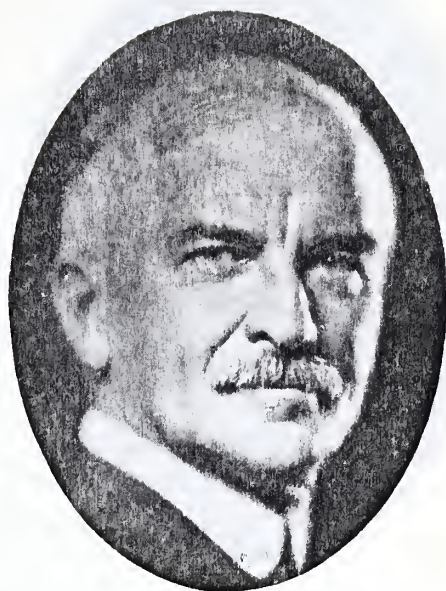
We have received into the church of Christ here in fifty years 1,396 souls, 431 of these during the second pastorate. There have been but two pastors in fifty years, an honorable record. "Who is sufficient for these things." I recall that my venerable father, when he heard of my call to this field, out of his long experience in the ministry, doubted my ability for such a work. Many of you will remember his paternal prayer at the installation May 8, 1906. One of his last public acts.

1. The past has gone from us, but it lives in the inspiration of the pioneer lives of whom we have spoken. America needs more and more the spirit of the men and women who founded this church in 1867. In the early days I have been told the good women would raise early and serve breakfast to the business men in the church on their way to the New York trains. This in order to fill up the treasury of the Ladies' Aid, that real Aid Society of all these years. America is just in danger in these times of losing some of the pioneer spirit of the fathers and mothers. We love pleasure, we love ease, and I see a famous Rear-Admiral the other day makes the remark that we are in danger of turning Uncle Sam into an Aunt Elizabeth. Great Britain's youth have had pressed home in these terrific war times the real seriousness of life. God might call us in that we, too, might become more serious, through the pathway of sacrifice. The pioneers of this church had been through the sacrifices of Civil War times. "Stand ye in the way and see; ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest to your souls."

2. The present. That is with us ever. Upon us critical times have come. President Woodrow Wilson has had thrust upon him burdens greater than any President since Lincoln. He has aged under the burden. He needs us all back of him, regardless of party affiliations, that the rights of our greatest of all countries may be preserved and the highways of God's great sea kept free as air from menace of all sorts. We have not escaped the fearful scourge of war. We have seen innocent children and mothers drowned in the sea on the "Lusitania" and we have had plotters and disloyalists among us. Upon us







SIDE VIEW OF PRESENT CHURCH

REV. JAMES D. STEELE, PH. D., D. D.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HALL AND PARSONAGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY AND CHURCH







RECTORY

LOOKING SOUTH

REV. P. LEMKE

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



in this particular church rest grave responsibilities. We must keep the altar fires of religion burning brightly in this sanctuary, that our own hearts being warmed we may go forth in all the broad highways of service here for Christ and for humanity. We thank God for all our men and women who are doing good Samaritan work along many lines in this city.

3. The future. It is bright with promise. Let us face it bravely with a heart for any work. I am most anxious that this church shall do all that any New York church its size is attempting, and by the most efficient modern methods. This is no longer a village. We are part of the great metropolitan area, and ought to do big things for Christ Jesus, whose we are and whom we serve. Perhaps we can do more than we have done to Christianize the foreign speaking among us. Bloomfield Seminary is near at hand to supply the leadership. Perhaps some unchurched part of our city of 61,000 as in contrast with 500 in 1867 calls for new work that we can best organize. Is God setting before us an open door? Let us not refuse to enter. The word is as to Israel of old, forward and ever forward. Another half century and other tongues shall tell and other hearts feel the later story of a greater Jubilee and we shall among the saints on high.

[Editor's Note—A personal sketch of the Rev. Dr. Steele will be found in the biographical department of this work.]

Mrs. Steele, whose activities are so fittingly referred to by Dr. Steele in his Golden Jubilee sermon, was intensely interested in the young women of the church, for whom she was instrumental in organizing the Westminster Guild, as stated above in the Jubilee history, and later, March 10, 1921, organized the Westminster Circle, both of which are real live organizations, from which Mrs. Steele is greatly missed, although still held by all the members in loving remembrance. On May 8, 1922, the name of the Guild was changed to Westminster Guild, Emma A. Steele Chapter, in remembrance of her whose memory is thus honored and her name perpetuated. Of this church the pastor's salary is \$3,000 and the use of the manse. Its choir is one of the leading ones of the city. Last year it cost over \$3,000 for music. The church is supported by pew rents, voluntary pledges and plate collections which last year amounted to \$8,576; in addition gifts to benevolence amounted to \$12,104, a total of \$20,680 for all purposes. The present (1922) officers consist of:

Session—Rev. George H. Wallace, Moderator pro tem. 1925—Henry W. Thomas, John A. Moore, Donald MacMillan. 1924—Alexander Stewart, John Murphy, Jr., Arthur P. Koar. 1923—Alexander M. Turner, William A. Robbins, William C. Himrod. Clerk, Arthur P. Koar, 178 Hazel Road, Lakewood; Treasurer, John Murphy, Jr., 131 Lafayette Avenue.

Trustees—Robert D. Benson, President; Joseph Morgan, Edward A. Greene, Winfield T. Scott, William F. Brunner, Henry A. Barry; Secretary-Treasurer, Frank A. Fabrey, 85 Howard Street.

Deacons—1925, Alden Abbott, Aaron J. Troast; 1924, Byron D. Benson, Walter M. Eastman; 1923, Robert Appleton, Charles Leslie Gray.

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*German Evangelical Lutheran*—The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, of the city of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, is chiefly constituted of German families who have settled in the city of Passaic during the last thirty-five years. It owes its origin largely to the instrumentality and influence of a number of German enterprising business men and capitalists, who came to the city of Passaic soon after the enactment of the high protective tariff Legislation during President Benjamin Harrison's administration. This tariff tax changed the commercial conditions in the markets of this country on imported goods to such a degree that it practically prohibited many of the German textile manufacturers from selling the wares of their factories in the markets of the United States.

In consequence of this high tariff tax, a number of the leading German textile manufacturers from the Kingdom of Saxony and the principalities of Southern Germany, transplanted their means of production to this country. Among the first of these textile manufacturers were the Messrs. Edward Stoeck, of the city of Leipzig, Frederick Arnold, of the city of Greitz, George Hirsch, of the city of Gera, who came





to this country for the purpose of finding a suitable location for establishing a plant to manufacture the same quality and standard of goods which they had been producing in their mills in the Fatherland. These German manufacturers, after a careful investigation, concluded to establish their mills along the banks of the Passaic river, in 1888, in the town of Passaic which at that time had approximately a population of 10,000 inhabitants. These German textile manufacturers here laid the foundation of what has since become the world renowned "Botany" (worsted mills), the word "Botany" being a place name in Australia, noted for the fine quality of fleeces produced in that part of the country. This enterprise at once invited the immigration to this country of many families from the manufacturing districts of the Kingdom of Saxony, and the principalities and provinces of southern Germany, who upon their arrival here chiefly settled in the eastern district of what is now the Second and Fourth wards of the city of Passaic.

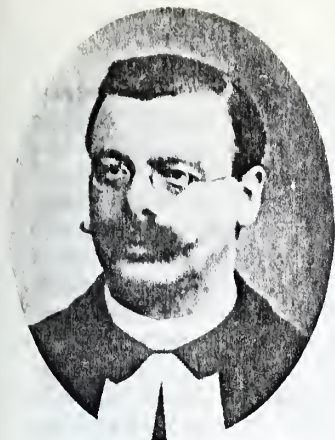
Among the names of these pioneer German woolen manufacturers who established their plants and operated the first woolen mills in the town of Passaic should be mentioned the Messrs. Ludwig Kick, George Arnold, Oscar Dressler, Ferdinand Kuhn, Thomas Prehn and Edward Stoehr. About the beginning of the year 1900, the Messrs. Christian Bahnsen, "Kammertzinrat," Meyer and Ruckdaeschel of the town and principality of Gera, Germany, founded the Gera mills, on the western bank of the Passaic River. These mills have since become known as one of the largest of their kind in the State of New Jersey, and the material growth and development of the city of Passaic has been greatly advanced by this textile manufacturing establishment, which also has exerted a potential influence upon the social and moral interests of the city of Passaic, adding greatly to the increased numbers of new settlers coming from the Fatherland with their families, who settled in Passaic. Here they built their homes and have reared their families. A number of years later the Garfield Worsted Mills and the renowned Forstmann and Huffmann Company organized and their mills were erected; also the New Jersey Spinning Company located their plant in the town of Garfield. These various woolen and textile manufacturing plants have become noted for the extent of their productive capacity, and the quality of their wares, and have also furnished employment for a large number of skilled operators, many of whom were attracted to these plants and came directly to Passaic from their homes in the Kingdom of Saxony and the surrounding municipalities and provinces, where they had been trained in the art and technique of spinning and weaving woolen goods.

These new settlers not only possessed a high standard of ingenuity and skill in the art of weaving and spinning, but they also possessed a fine quality of business experience which they had acquired in their native land. Many of these German settlers who came here with their families have in the course of time become a potent influence in the various communities wherein they have established their homes. It might be well for the writer to state here that a number of these German settlers came from the Principality of Reuss, Kingdom of Saxony; and the Thuringian district of Germany.

From the beginning of the period when these mammoth woolen industries were established, they at once exerted a potential influence upon numerous other enterprises in the city of Passaic, where much of the machinery and technical products used in the construction and maintenance of these various textile manufacturing plants were produced. In consequence, many other lines of industry have been established in the city of Passaic, furnishing employment to many operatives and laborers.

Soon after the period of 1890, these German families, having become numerous in Passaic and the surrounding communities, a number of the leading representative men and women among them realized the need of spiritual direction through the church and its precepts, under which they had been trained and educated in their native country. In order that they might be enabled to secure the spiritual help and





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REV. W. BERKEMEIER

REV. PH. P. MAAS

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comfort afforded by the church of their ancestors, a number of these men and women of these German families decided to call a meeting to discuss plans towards organizing and establishing a church of their own faith, and in which the Gospel would be preached in their native language. Accordingly on October 14, 1891, Carl Hayn, Hermann Hess, Mathias Macher, Johann Sack and Francis Werner, held a conference, at which it was decided to organize a congregation among these German families, many of whom, in the absence of any church in the city of Passaic of their own faith, had attended the Presbyterian church.

Following a meeting and conference, which was held on October 14, 1890, in a room on the second floor of the frame building at the southwest corner of Passaic and McLean streets, at which the Rev. Kern, of Carlstadt, Bergen county, New Jersey, acted as chairman, the following were designated as officers of the new organization, to be known as the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church: Karl Hayn was elected president; Hermann Foedisch was chosen secretary, and Paul Baumgaertel was elected treasurer; Karl Thoms was elected vice-president; Albert Hess and Karl Froehlich were chosen members of the board. These officers and members of the board had there and then decided to incorporate the organization under the name of the "German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church." On November 25, 1891, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and a certificate of incorporation bearing the date of November 28, 1891, was recorded in the county clerk's office, in the city of Paterson, on December 3 following. At the meeting and conference aforementioned, Albert Hess and Karl Froehlich were appointed a committee for the purpose of procuring funds with which to carry forward the object and purpose of the organization. In the month of December, 1891, the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church had a membership of about sixty souls. The congregation was small in number, but they were, however, enabled to have their own minister, and requested that the Rev. W. Berkemeier, of further mention, the well known leader of the German Lutheran Immigrant Home in New York City, assume the care of their spiritual needs and preach the Gospel. The Rev. Berkemeier willingly and gladly consented. His helpfulness and spiritual work among these people has not been forgotten. During his time the congregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium, of New York City. On December 18, 1891, a special meeting was held, Rev. F. W. Peterson, of Middle Village, Queens county, Long Island, who was at that time the president of the New York District Conference, was present at this meeting. He was chosen chairman of the meeting, explained the purpose of the Synod, and was requested to make several changes in the constitution which had been originally adopted. This being done, with the approval of its president, the new board of trustees were chosen as follows: Karl Hayn was elected president; Carl Froehlich was elected secretary, and Paul Baumgaertel was elected treasurer of the new organization. The trustees chosen at the same meeting were namely: F. Werner, Heinrich Voss, E. Rabold, A. Hess, W. Brotze, and Karl Froehlich. On January 1, 1892, the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's church secured new and larger quarters, in what was then Reisel's Hall, located in Second street, in the city of Passaic, where they continued to meet and worship on each succeeding Sunday during the next four years.

It was on May 9, 1892, that the congregation, which had multiplied considerably in numbers, extended a call to the Rev. Rudolph Haessner, who became their spiritual adviser and pastor. During the years of his charge, the congregation grew rapidly in numbers, and the new membership, coming from the newly arrived families from the villages and towns of the Fatherland, immediately took an active interest in the advancement and development of the congregation.

The Prince of Reuss, having contributed a fund of two hundred marks for the use of the congregation, the Lutheran (Gotteskasten), of the Kingdom of Saxony, also





donated two hundred marks in German currency. The Lutheran church in the town of Langenwetzendorf also donated one hundred marks. The rector, Rev. R. Haessner, having exerted much earnestness in his endeavor to secure funds for the purpose of finally obtaining a suitable site upon which to erect a new church edifice, with the enthusiastic help of his parishioners, secured liberal contributions from the leading German families of the city of Passaic and the surrounding communities, all of whom generously contributed financial aid. This aim having been fully achieved, the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church purchased, August 23, 1894, a plot of land located at Hamilton and Quincy streets, in the city of Passaic, the proceedings of this work, secured plans from the noted architect, L. Becker, in the for the sum of \$2,245.09. This site, however, did not meet the requirements of the plans of the proposed church edifice, and was soon thereafter disposed of, and a larger plot purchased for the sum of \$4,000, located at the junction of Hamilton and Lexington avenues. Here upon this site it was finally decided that the congregation would erect a suitable church edifice. Ludwig Kick, having taken a leading and active part in city of Mainz, Germany, which were finally used in the construction of the present and attractive Gothic church edifice, which was erected by the Flint Construction Company during the years 1896-1897, the cornerstone of the foundation having been laid with appropriate ceremonies on May 31, 1896. The erection of the church edifice was rapidly carried forward, and after the building had been completed, the first services were held in the basement, where they were conducted on each succeeding Sunday until after Wизentide.

The building proper of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church is constructed strictly on lines of the Gothic style, forty-five feet in width, and one hundred and sixteen feet long, the main building rising to a height of eighty feet, and the tower of the church having an altitude of one hundred and eighty feet. The interior section and decorations of the edifice are notable for their artistic finish and splendor.

The erection of the church edifice involved an expenditure of more than \$52,000. The lofty tower and the Gothic cornices of the church are noticeable from long distances from all sides of the city of Passaic. Soon after erecting the present edifice, the congregation purchased an adjacent lot, immediately in the rear, which has been added to the original site, in order to preclude any encroachment of commercial buildings upon the church premises.

The Rev. Rudolph Haessner continued his spiritual ministrations to the members of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church until 1903, in which year he accepted a call to the city of Frankenthal, near the town of Gera, in the Principality of Reuss, Germany. The noted divine, Rev. Philipp Maas, who was a graduate of one of the universities of Germany, where he was ordained in 1870, and ministered the Gospel in the Lutheran churches in his native land, came to this country in 1900. Soon after his arrival here, he assumed charge of the Lutheran Epiphany Church, Hempstead, Nassau county, Long Island, where he remained until the Spring of 1903, when he came to Passaic, and assumed the pastoryship of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, where he continued ministering to his parishioners up to 1909, having proved himself not only a great divinity student, but also an able and forceful preacher. Rev. Philipp Maas returned to his native country the same year, where he assumed a ministerial charge in the fortress city of Freiburg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, and there labored among his people up to the time of his death, which occurred July 3, 1911.

On July 1, 1909, Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke, a student of the German schools and seminaries, assumed the guidance and spiritual direction of the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, where he has faithfully ministered to the spiritual comforts of his people up to the present time, 1921. As a result of his capable and sympathetic ministrations, he has contributed much to the increase of



membership of the congregation, who have learned to love him for his many good deeds and sympathy towards his parishioners.

During these many years of the rapid growth and advancement of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's congregation, the first organist, Mr. William Richter, has rendered efficient and faithful service to the congregation up to the present time, 1921.

Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke was born November 26, 1874, in the village of Parlin in the Province of Pommerania, Kingdom of Prussia, Germany. His parents were Friedrich and Marie (Schmeling) Lemke. The former was born October 25, 1850, and for many years was a teacher in the schools of his native province. The latter, Marie (Schmeling) Lemke, was born November 15, 1851. Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke received his early educational training under his father's tuition, and at the age of nine studied under private instruction in Latin and French. Under the tuition of the noted divine, Rev. M. Ebeling, in 1887, the young student entered upon a course of study in the Gymnasium in the town of Stargard in the Province of Pommerania, which had been founded in 1630, and had become known as a renowned institution of learning. This period of his early studentship were the happy years of his career. He learned to thoroughly enjoy reading philosophic books, and his studies had become a pleasure to him. About this time he decided to study for the ministry of the Gospel, but owing to the fact that the opportunities for theological students and ministers of the Gospel in the Province of Pommerania and the surrounding communities were exceedingly rare, and in consequence any theological student was compelled to wait a long period after his ordination before he could secure a pastorate in the Lutheran church, the Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke decided to come to the United States, where the opportunities for young clergymen could be more readily secured. Accordingly, in 1893, he entered the Theological Seminary in the town of Kropp, in the Province of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, which had been founded especially for training students for the Lutheran church in the United States. He concluded his studies in this institution in 1896, in which year he bid adieu to the Fatherland and set sail for the port of New York City, where he landed in the month of September of the same year. Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke was ordained to the ministry, October 27, 1896, and soon thereafter assumed charge of the Lutheran Mission Church in Hartford, Connecticut. On January 1, 1899, he accepted a call to the Lutheran Immanuel Church in the town of Scymour, Connecticut. On October 1, 1903, he accepted a call to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waterbury, Connecticut, where he faithfully labored and ministered to the spiritual comforts of his congregation until July 1, 1909, when he was called to the city of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey. Here he assumed the pastorate of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, and has faithfully ministered to the congregation up to the present time, 1921.

Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke married, in the city of Brooklyn, New York, September 27, 1900, Fanny Juliette Grandlienard, daughter of the Rev. Henry Grandlienard, who was pastor of the French Presbyterian church on Sixteenth street, New York City. He was born April 27, 1842, in Montier, Jura Bernois, Republic of Switzerland, and was a descendant of an old Huguenot family who had been driven from the northern part of France during the seventeenth century, and took refuge in the land of liberty and freedom. Rev. Henry Grandlienard had studied theology in the city of Basil, whence he went to Africa as a missionary, but owing to the impaired condition of his health, was forced to leave that climate, and in 1870 came to the United States, and soon after his arrival here settled in New York City, where he assumed the pastorate of the French Presbyterian church on Sixteenth street. Here he faithfully labored and ministered to his congregation up to 1912. Rev. Grandlienard married Martha Heischmann, who was born in the city of Hamburg, Germany, November 18, 1850,





and was brought by her parents, Rev. Theodore Heischmann and his wife, to the United States in 1855.

Rev. Paul E. T. Lemke and Fanny Juliette (Grandlienard) Lemke have born to them the following children: 1. Emma Louise, born July 2, 1903, in the town of Seymour, Connecticut. 2. Margaret Theodora, born August 28, 1905, in the town of Hicksville, Nassau county, Long Island. 3. Dorothy Frances, born January 8, 1912, in New York City.

Rev. William Berkemeier was born in the Principality of Lippe-Detmold, north-western Germany, lying between Prussian Westphalia, Hanover, and the Principality of Pyrmont, in 1825. His father was a leader in the Lutheran denomination, and a devout adherent to the faith as propagated by Martin Luther. William Berkemeier came to the United States about 1850, and settled at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, then a frontier city, that a few years before (1845) had been destroyed by fire. Here he established the first Lutheran congregation, gathered together from the German immigrants who made up a considerable proportion of the inhabitants. This congregation organized the first of the nine Lutheran churches now flourishing in the city. He next established a congregation at Wheeling, Virginia, on the Ohio river, ninety-two miles by water below Pittsburgh, incorporated as a city in 1806. In 1859 he took up his residence in New York City, the earliest home of the Lutheran church in America, then known as New Amsterdam, the members of which came from Holland with the Dutch in 1644, and were without a minister, the same being forbidden them by the Dutch until English rule. Then Jacob Favricus preached to them, and ministered to their spiritual wants from 1664, and they built the first Lutheran church in 1671, rebuilt in 1703, at Broadway and Rector street. The church was greatly increased in numbers in 1710-1712 by the great German exodus from the Fatherland to avert starvation, and civil and religious oppression. These immigrants in the American Revolution proved zealous patriots. The first Lutheran church in which the English language was exclusively used in New York was built in 1809, and in 1816 a public theological seminary was established at Hartwick, Otsego county, New York. The Rev. William Berkemeier began his mission work in New York City in 1859, his object being to minister to the in-coming German-Lutheran emigrants by looking after their immediate needs, assisting them in procuring employment, and protecting them from the danger they were sure to encounter from unscrupulous fellow countrymen, who directed them and robbed them of the little money they had in their possession. His work among this class determined him to provide a Lutheran emigrant house, as a temporary home for such of the German-Lutheran emigrants as would avail themselves of its shelter. He raised by personal solicitation, \$30,000 for the erection of this home, which he located at No. 26 State street, and constructed a handsome and well equipped mission building, in which he received these emigrants as they landed at Castle Garden. The building was known as "The Lutheran Emigrant House," and was a substantial five-story building capable of housing 500 guests, one of the most practical benevolences in New York at the time. He not only founded and promoted the institution, but he likewise gave to it his personal care and management during the remainder of his life, placing thereby hundreds of thousands of emigrants under obligation, by a helping hand held out to them when they needed just such help.

He married, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lena Nielender. She died in New York City in 1895, aged seventy-six years. Issue: 1. Hermann Johann, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who became a clergyman of the Lutheran church at Port Chester, New York. 2. Gottlieb Carl, of whom further. 3. Lena, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1859; she married Rev. John Offerman, of New York City. 4. Mary, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1862; she married Rev. H. D. Krailing, of Poughkeepsie, New York. 5. Anna, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1865; she married Rev. A. Schmidt-konz, of Roundout, New York. 6. Martha,



born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1867; she married Rev. R. Lange, of Emden, Illinois. 7. Hannah, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1869; she married George F. Anger. Rev. William Berkemeier died in New York City.

Gottlieb Carl Berkemeier, son of Rev. William and Lena (Nielender) Berkemeier, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 25, 1855. He was educated in the primary Lutheran school of the city of Wheeling, West Virginia, and after the close of the Civil War period was enrolled as a student in Thiel College, a Lutheran school for higher education, where he was a diligent pupil up to 1869, when he joined his father in New York City, and became a pupil in St. Matthew's Academy in that city. He went to Germany in 1872, to continue his education in the University of Erlangen, in Bavaria, the only Protestant university in Bavaria, founded in 1743 by one of the Margraves of Baireuth. Here he found facilities for the study of theology, medicine and arts, with a museum of natural history, a botanical garden, and a library of 105,000 volumes. His studies at these two universities was extended over five years. In 1877 he was appointed a vicar, thus receiving his first practical experience in a Bavarian Lutheran church. In 1878 he returned to New York, where he was ordained to the ministry of the Lutheran church in the United States, and was installed pastor of the church in Poughkeepsie, New York. During this pastorate, which extended to seven years, he founded a mission at Wappingers Falls; served as a member of the Board of Education in Poughkeepsie, and professor of languages in the schools for higher education in that city.

In 1866 the Rev. William A. Passavant, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a celebrated philanthropist, founded in Westchester county, New York, the Wartburg Orphans' School, which had been placed under the charge of the Rev. G. C. Holls, who in 1886, owing to failing health, was obliged to discontinue the work he had undertaken. The superintendency of the school was thereupon offered to Dr. Berkemeier, who resigned his pastorate in Poughkeepsie to accept the new duties. He found fifty-nine pupils housed in a comfortable main building, and a chapel attached. Dr. Berkemeier at once solicited funds for enlarging the buildings, and with the first money collected built a convenient kindergarten building and equipped it with an outfit that included the latest appliances for teaching the very young children. He next built an additional school building at a cost of \$8,000; Langlais Hall, a dormitory for boys, at a cost of \$42,000; a hospital at a cost of \$5,000; and the Mary Louise Haines Memorial for the accommodation of the aged and infirm, at a cost of \$30,000. This equipment was shared by 162 pupils, three-fifths of whom were full orphans, and of whom the number of boys and girls were about equal. Only healthy, clean and well behaved children between the ages of four and ten years were received, and they were kept and instructed until they attained the ages of sixteen to eighteen years, or until they proved themselves able to support themselves. Their future was carefully guarded by periodical reports, and if any were in need of assistance, they were privileged to return to the only "home" that they knew of, or of which they had any tender recollection. Besides the mastering of the usual English and German courses of instruction, they were trained to habits of thrift and industry, and in the practical affairs of life. The boys were agriculturally trained on the school farm of over 100 acres of good land purchased thirty-five years ago for \$30,000, and in 1900 valued at \$500,000, including the stock and improvements. Besides farm and garden work, the boys were instructed in the printing office and in the shoe-making department attached to the school. Their religious instruction was received in the class-room and in the beautiful chapel, in the form used in the Lutheran church, which denomination founded and supported the school, and saw that its financial needs were abundantly supplied. Worthy children were received, irrespective of their previous religious training, and thereafter taught, while at school, the principles and doctrines of the Lutheran faith. The school had a phenomenal health record, in that during the first thirty-two years





of its existence only five deaths occurred among its hundreds of people, while under the first four years of the administration of Dr. Berkemeier but two had died, not a single death having occurred during the last nine years. The average annual cost of maintaining each scholar was only about \$90, while the lowest cost per pupil per annum of other similarly conducted schools was about \$125. Very little, of other than routine work, was left to subordinates, Dr. Berkemeier having entire supervision of both educational and financial affairs. In spite of these absorbing duties and responsibilities, he finds time to devote to literary pursuits, and he is the official editor of the "Lutherische Herald," the official organ of the New York Ministerium, and a frequent contributor to periodical journals, both English and German. His collected writings are soon to be issued by a German bookseller. He writes both in prose and verse.

Dr. Berkemeier married August 18, 1883, Susette Kraeling. Of their union they had born to them the following children, Lena and Mina.

### THE REFORMED CHURCH

*Northside Christian Reformed Church*—It was during the year of 1905, that a number of the members of the Hope Avenue Christian Reformed Church of the city of Passaic, contemplated the formation of a new congregation, as a result of the rapid increase in numbers of the Hope Avenue Christian Reformed Church organization. Consequently after a number of conferences, among those who advocated the organization of a new congregation, it was decided with the approval of the parent church to erect a new church and rectory in the northwestern section of the city of Passaic to be known as the Northside Christian Reformed Church. At the time of the meeting, the organization was consummated in the Chapel on Autumn street. Reverend H. Van Hoogan presided and the Reverend G. Westenberg, with the Reverend D. Van der Ploeg, who gave counsel and advice to the proposed new organization attended. After the organization of the Northside Christian Reformed Church, the congregation held its services on each succeeding Sabbath day, in the chapel which stood on Autumn street until 1907.

The certificate of incorporation of the Northside Christian Reformed Church was dated July 22, 1905, and bears the names of the following elders: Mattys Klapmets, Jan Snoep, and Nick Hornstra. The deacons, whose names appear in the articles of incorporation were, Jetri Pruksma, Jilles Bergsma and John Sylstra. Following the organization of the Northside Christian Reformed Church, the officers of the church acquired by purchase, the site of land at the southwest corner of Myrtle avenue and Burgess place, where they erected the present church and parsonage building, at a cost aggregating twenty-two thousand dollars. At the beginning of the organization of the Northside Christian Reformed Church, the congregation did not have a duly appointed minister. The ministers of the various churches of the Classis Hudson, had performed the services and preached to the new congregation on Sabbath day. It was during the year 1908, that the new congregation secured its own minister, the Reverend A. J. Van den Heuvel, who had formerly been the pastor of the Christian Reformed Church, in the city of Rochester, New York. Having accepted the call, he was duly installed. His leadership, however, did not endure very long, as his method of directing the church affairs met with the disapproval of his congregation, a fact of which, was made known to the Classis Hudson, which body convened on the 3rd of August, 1911. As a result of their deliberations, he was found guilty of improper and imprudent conduct, and the Classis Hudson demanded that Reverend A. J. Van den Heuvel should make open confession of his mismanagement and sins, and further, to reconcile himself with his consistory and his congregation. Later the Classis Hudson, decided at a session held on the 23rd of November, 1911, that it should be to the best interests of the congregation, that the Reverend A. J. Van den Heuvel should





resign his rectorship. On the 13th of December, the same year, this body, the Classis Hudson, decided, however, to defer the carrying out of its first decision, until after the meeting of the Synod, which was to convene in the month of June, 1912. At the same time, the Synod provided that until the time that the Synod would convene, the Reverend A. J. Van den Heuvel should take a vacation, and refrain from all further services to the congregation, and in the meantime, the Classis Hudson should provide and furnish a clergyman to take charge of the services until the Synod should have made suitable provision for a regular clergyman.

In the meantime, however, some of the members of the consistory and of the laymen of the congregation, decided to secede from the Classis Hudson, and join the Classis Peramus of the Reformed Church of America. At the same time they invited the Reverend A. J. Van den Heuvel to accept their offer, as their clergyman and this group of members of the old congregation, held the possession and custody of the church property. These proceedings all occurred on the ninth of January, 1912. Those of the Congregation of the Northside Reformed Church who remained loyal, were prohibited from using the church building, and in consequence, were obliged to hold their regular meeting at other places. Soon following this action, the original group of seceders claimed to have the right to use the church building. In the meantime, regular proceedings were instituted, and the Supreme Court of New Jersey issued an injunction ordering them to permit the body of loyal members to the use of the church edifice and building for services during one-half of the Sabbath. Immediately following these regular proceedings, the original group of seceders brought action in the court of errors and appeals. These proceedings resulted in allowing the possession and use of all the church property, to the group of members, who had remained loyal to the Classis Hudson.

Prior to this unfortunate division and differences in the congregation, thirty of these families left the congregation. Immediately upon the decision of the court of errors and appeals, the congregation procured a new pastor, the Reverend J. J. Hiemenga of Coldbrook Church at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Having accepted the call, he was installed as the regular pastor of the Northside Christian Reformed Church. He remained until 1918, at which time he was called to the Christian Reformed Church of Rochester, New York. During the years of his pastorate, the Reverend Hiemenga succeeded in increasing the membership to ninety-four families. During his administration, a number of societies were organized: The Ladies' Aid Society, the Young Men's Society, the Young Ladies' Society, and the Mission Society. As a result of this increased membership, it was decided by the elders and deacons to build an addition to the church building, which is now used for the meetings of the various organizations and societies, of the Northside Christian Reformed Church.

In the month of June, 1918, the Reverend S. S. Van der Heide, who had been pastor of the Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, was called to assume the pastorate of the Northside Christian Reformed Church and he was installed on the fourth of August following. At these ceremonies the Reverend K. Fortuin, who was the pastor of the Hope Avenue Christian Reformed Church, officiated. Since his pastorate, the Reverend S. S. Van der Heide has, as a result of his kindly and sympathetic administrations among his congregation, won the love and esteem of his members. The number of families now comprising the congregation of the Northside Christian Reformed Church, exceed over one hundred and four. The present members of the consistory are: Herbert Prinis, Nicholas Hornstra, John Wattiz, N. DeVries and H. Snoop, who constitute the Board of Elders. The deacons are Leonard Wynbeck, T. Van Tyens, G. Bruins and J. Hammersma.

Sjoerd Van der Heide. This name is a place name and is derived from Bergum-erheide, which is eight miles east from Leeuwarden, the capital city of Friesland. The first representatives of this branch of the Van der Heide family, of whom we have



any authentic information were Bouke and his wife Tjitske. They lived at Bergumerheide and to them were born the following children: Wieger, Riekele, Jouke, Kornelis and Tsjitske.

Wieger Boukes Van der Heide, the first son of Bouke Van der Heide and his wife Tjitske, was married to Romkje Rypstra, daughter of P. Rypstra and Maaïke. To them were born the following children: 1. Bouke, who married Sietske, and to them were born: Albert, Romke, Wieger and Elske. 2. Pieter, who married Aaltje Wiemstra, and to whom were born the following children: Bouwke, Jentje, Romkje, Jouwke, Pieter, Kornelis, Jenke and Maaïke. 3. Jouke; he married Dirkjeh. Children: Martinus and a daughter. 4. Dirk; he married Tryntje Van der Wal. Children: Jakob, Wieger, Johannes, Romkje, Maaïke and Anna. 5. Tjisse; he was not married and died in the service of his country. 6. Maarten; he married Akke Talsma. Children: Wieger, Hendrik, Welmoet and Romkje. 7. Wieger; he married Ietsje Folkersma. Children: Tjisee, Bote and Anna. 8. Sake, of whom further. 9. Maaïke; she married Dirk Klok. Children: Jan, Wieger, etc. 10. Kornelis; he married (first) Maaïke Zwart and they had: Romkje, Anna, Johannes, Wieger and Pieter. He married (second) Maaïke Palma, and had children: Auwkje, Ietje and Maaïke.

Sake Van der Heide, son of Wieger and Romkje (Rypstra) Van der Heide was born August 25, 1831, and died February 19, 1915. In May 24, 1856, he married Antje Van Dyk, born November 8, 1833, and died March 16, 1910. The following children were born to them: 1. Romkje, born February 3, 1857; died August 16, 1918. 2. Jan, born August 22, 1858; died April 14, 1861. 3. Wieger, born December 17, 1860; died January 1, 1861. 4. Antie, born January 25, 1863; died June 20, 1863. 5. Wieger. 6. Antje. 7. Jan, born April 5, 1865. 8. Wieger, born May 26, 1867; died September 26, 1903. 9. Sjoerd, of whom further. 10. Bouke, born October 24, 1871; died June 30, 1917. 11. Pieter, born September 19, 1873; died November 26, 1873. 12. Antje, born August 28, 1876; died February 19, 1877. 13. Pieter, born October 27, 1878; died May 26, 1912. 14. Anne.

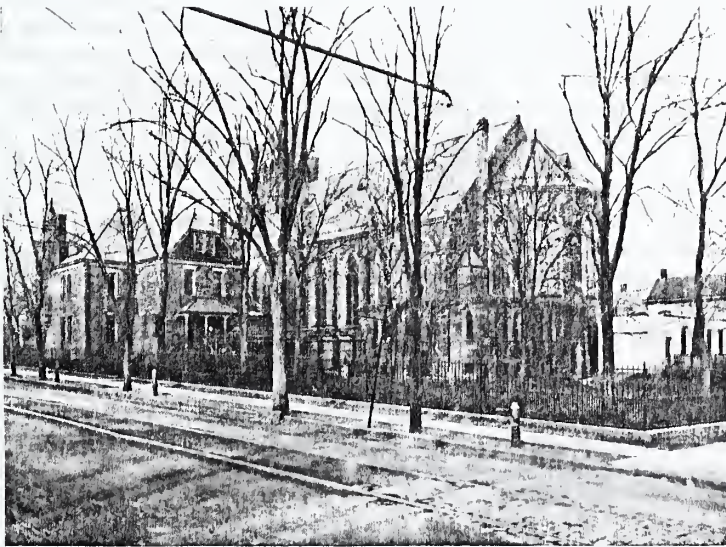
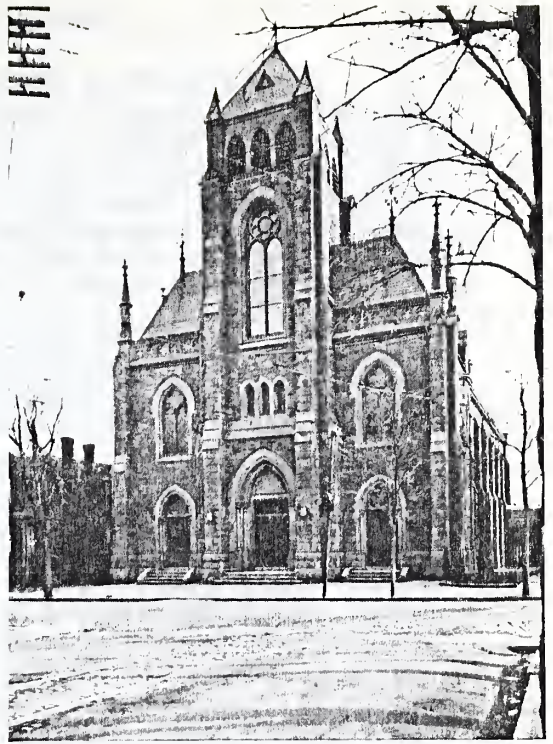
Sjoerd Van der Heide, ninth child and son of Sake and Antje (Van Dyk) Van der Heide was born at the family home at Ferwerd, Friesland, the third day of December, 1869. When he was five years of age, he was taken to the Christian School at that place, where he received his first education. At the age of thirteen he was asked by the principal of that institution to take a normal course in order to become a school teacher in one of the schools.

His parents came to America and settled at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Here he studied for the ministry at the Theological School of the Christian Reformed Church. He finished his studies in June, 1899. In the month of September following he received three calls, one of the Christian Reformed Church of Fisher Station, Michigan, another of the Christian Reformed church of Leota, Minnesota, again another of the Christian Reformed church of Lodi, New Jersey. He accepted the first one and was installed on Sunday the twenty-sixth of November 1899, the Rev. J. H. Vos officiating. In 1902 he accepted the call of the Christian Reformed church at Beaverdam, Michigan, and remained there until 1904. In 1904 he became pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan, and labored there until 1909, when he took charge of the First Christian Reformed Church, of Chicago, Illinois. Here he stayed nine years. In June 1918 he was called by the Northside Christian Reformed Church to come and be their pastor. In August following he arrived at Passaic, New Jersey.

The eighteenth of November, 1899, he married Grace Holwerda. They had the following children: 1. Samuel. 2. Jeanette. 3. Anna. 4. John.







PARISH HOUSE

LOOKING NORTH

FRONT VIEW

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH



## HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM IN PASSAIC

*Early Catholicism of Passaic and St. Nicholas' Catholic Church*—Just when Catholics as such came or settled in this State, it is difficult for the historian to determine. That missionaries of the Catholic church were here in the early days is evident from the laws passed in 1699, which not only repealed certain laws allowing religious liberty to all persons, which had been promulgated by Colonel Dongan, former governor of the States of New York and New Jersey, and himself a Catholic, but which contained provisions directly aimed at Catholics. The preamble of this act reads as follows:

"Whereas, divers Jesuits, priests, and papist missionaries have of late come, and for some time have had their residence in the remote parts of this province, and other of his Majesty's adjacent colonies, who, by their wicked and subtle insinuations industriously labored to debauch, seduce, and withdraw the Indians from their due obedience unto his most sacred Majesty, and to excite and stir them up to sedition, rebellion, and open hostility against his Majesty's Government."

It then enacted that every priest, and missionary remaining in or coming into the province after November 1st, 1700, should be "deemed and accounted an incendiary, and disturber of the public peace and safety, and an enemy to the true Christian religion, and shall be adjudged to suffer perpetual imprisonment." In case of escape and capture to suffer death. Harbors of priests to pay two hundred pounds and stand three days in the pillory. (Laws of N. Y. P. 38). On September 16, 1701, a law was enacted by which papists and popish recusants were prohibited from voting for members of Assembly or any office whatever, from thenceforth and forever." (Col. of Laws, i., p. 42).

Regarding the names and labors of the missionaries in this vicinity, nothing is known excepting that a zealous Catholic from Amboy by the name of Van Quellan visited and preached to the Indians here, assembling them on Dundee Island at various times between 1660 and 1684. His interpreter was Karataugh, an Indian who resided alone in his hut across the river in Garfield, which hut stood upon the site for many years occupied by Zabriskie's grist mill, Midland avenue. This man, it is said, became a convert, and continued the good work among the Indians.

Before, during and after the Revolution, the greatest industry in Northern New Jersey was iron-mining, blasting, blooming, forging and shipping of ore, requiring hundreds of men, and of those employed three-fourths were of Irish birth and of the Catholic faith, many of them Redemptioners, nearly all having come direct from Ireland at a time when this and Morris county produced all the iron then used in the United States. Most if not all of the iron was carted to Acquackanonk Landing (as Passaic was then known), where it was taken by boats to New York, Philadelphia and other ports. The volume of business was very great, not only for those faraway days, but one which even now would be considered of importance. At least one hundred two-horse teams were engaged, and it was a common thing to see twenty and thirty teams, following one another closely, on their way to and from this place. It required a score of boats to accommodate the traffic. Several docks were needed to receive and store this immense amount of iron. The largest one was at the Landing and occupied the land now numbered from 2 to 12 Main avenue. A two-story and basement frame dwelling stood here, the basement of which was used for storage, the first story for stores, and the second for dwellings. In the rear was the dock, about one hundred and twenty-five feet long. At the foot of Gregory avenue was another dock of the same size. At the foot of Westervelt place was another; and still another at Van Houten avenue.

During this period, Charlottenburg, Green Pond, Macopin, (now Echo Lake), Franklin Furnace, Pompton and Wynockie, numbered devout Catholics who were visited by Fathers Schneider and Farmer, who were the first priests to exercise their ministry in Northern New Jersey.





Father Theodore Schneider was a native of the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany. He was a member of the Jesuit Order, and had been Professor of Theology and Philosophy, and also, it was said, rector of a university in his native land. In 1740, he came as a missionary to America. Although not a graduate physician, he was skilled in the art of healing, under guise of which he made entry into New Jersey in 1743 to exercise his priestly functions. So zealous was he, that notwithstanding his danger from arrest—a danger in which all Catholic priests stood—he labored on, although pursued and even shot at by bigoted Christians. In 1744 he ventured a visit to the iron mines in this and adjoining counties, and celebrated Mass at Franklin Furnace. Father Schneider continued his ministrations, going from one mission to another in New York and New Jersey, until his death, which occurred July 18, 1764. He is considered to have been the first Catholic missionary in the State of New Jersey.

Another Catholic pioneer was the Rev. Ferdinand Farmer, whose family name was Steinmeyer. This truly apostolic man and devoted and indefatigable missionary was born at Swabia, Germany, October 13, 1720. He entered the Company of Jesus at Landerperge, September 26, 1743, and was selected for the China Mission; but Providence intervened and the young priest was sent to America. No picture of him is extant; but we are told that he was of slender form, having a countenance mild, gentle, and bearing an expression almost seraphic. It appears that he arrived in Philadelphia in 1758, and from that time until he was called to his reward, August 17, 1786, he was untiring in his labors for the salvation of souls. Like the great St. Paul, his journeys were many. Every spring and every autumn saw him starting off up the Delaware river, across country to Long Pond (now Greenwood Lake), Mount Hope, Macopin, New York City, Basking Ridge, Trenton, and Salem.

Some of the mine owners were Catholics and lived in Philadelphia. They invited Father Farmer to pay a visit to the settlements in this locality. He accepted the invitation and visited the mines at Greenwood Lake and Franklin Furnace. He was gladly received by the men who showed him every respect and attention, and he soon succeeded in gaining their confidence. His visit was productive of the best results, as the men who had been neglected so long, had fallen into bad ways. The good Father remained in and about the mines for two weeks, by the end of which time, we are told, a wonderful change took place. The men had become sober, industrious, peace-loving, and there were expressions of regret on all sides when Father Farmer left, with the promise of returning at the end of six months.

While at the mines, he received an appeal from the men at Acquackanonk Landing to visit them. Finding that he could do so on his way home, and at the same time visit Father Whelan, who had charge of the first parish and church in New York City, (St Peter's, Barclay street), he started out with one of the mule packs, laden with iron ore, and came here by the way of Sip's lane, now Van Houten avenue. He was met by Patrick McGovern, the general foreman of the men employed here. This was in the month of April, 1768. At this time a stone quarry had been opened on the southwest corner of Van Houten avenue and High street, near which stood a small one-story house occupied by Robert McWilliams, a widower, who later married Anne Nutter. He was an Irish Catholic and for several years had served on one of the vessels plying between the Landing and New York. An accident to his legs interfered with climbing, so he was obliged to give up life on the water to work on land. He was an ancestor of James McGuffey, who resided here all his life until his death, in 1860, at the age of eighty. It was from James McGuffey, who was well versed in the traditions of this locality, that William W. Scott received his information about the early Catholics of Acquackanonk Landing.

Upon his arrival, Father Farmer called upon the men employed on the docks. The dock at Westervelt place was owned and operated by Daniel Neil, afterwards captain of the Eastern Battery, in the Revolutionary War, at whose house Father





Farmer was entertained upon his arrival. This was a very busy spot in those days, because here were the barns for the many teams used in transporting the ore from the mines to the Landing; and scattered about what is now the City Park, Westervelt place, were barracks for the men. Richard Ludlow, who occupied the house known to us as the Pagoda Hotel, supplied many of the teams used in the business. He was a man of importance here at that time, and taking a great liking to Father Farmer, accompanied him about the village and introduced him to the men. Father Farmer remained here for a week or more and resided at the Blanchard or Leslie Tavern, which stood on Main avenue, opposite the present lumber yard of the S. M. Birch Lumber Company, the same tavern where Washington was to spend the night of November 21, 1776. The tavern was a stone building, and annexed to it on the north side was a frame building, open on the ground floor, to accommodate travelers' horses and wagons. On the second floor was the hall used for meetings, balls and parties.

It was in this hall that Father Farmer celebrated Mass. It was a great event, and all the more impressive because this old house had been built in 1714 as a parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church at Acquackanonk. James Leslie, of Belleville, a good Irishman, observing the volume of business here, and the lack of tavern accommodations, leased the old parsonage and opened a tavern for which no license was required. He soon required more room, and the hall was built accordingly.

In James Leslie, Father Farmer found a warm friend, ready to give all possible help, and when the Father announced his intention to celebrate Mass, Leslie was delighted and spread the good news far and wide. Father Farmer went among the workmen, inquiring into the circumstances and conditions of the men and their families, and in the short time he remained here he succeeded in adjusting many difficulties. On the Sunday after his arrival, presumably the first Sunday in May, 1768, Father Farmer celebrated Mass in this upper hall to a number of earnest, devout men and women. This was the first Mass, so far as we can ascertain, that was celebrated in Passaic, and it is interesting to note that, if Mr. McGuffy is correct in his date, this Mass was celebrated exactly one hundred years previous to the organization of St. Nicholas Church under Father Schandel in 1868—a most striking coincidence, worthy of remembrance. Father Farmer left soon after by boat for New York, much to the regret of the men whom he promised to visit again; which he did occasionally until his death.

Among those who owned and shipped iron were Anthony Brockholst and Arent Schuyler, good Catholics; Robert Drummond, the Ludlow brothers, Abraham Ackerman, Martin Ryerson. The latter made cannon balls for the government during the Revolution which also were shipped from this port. Ryerson's son, Ryer, in the service of the Continental army, had charge of shipments here. Schuyler made frequent trips here to look after his iron which was stored upon the docks lying in front of the house (still standing) of Gerrit Van Wagoner, whose pretty daughter Lena was often seen by him as she went about her duties in the house, and in the garden which extended from the house to the road, and ran along the river. In time they became acquainted and trips were more frequent until he proposed marriage. She accepted and they were married and went to reside at Pompton.

Another Catholic pioneer of Revolutionary days was Dr. Nicholas Roach, who came to this country from Dublin and took up his residence in New York City. It is said, that in addition to his medical studies, he had become partly educated for the priesthood. Soon after coming to New York, he made the acquaintance of the priest in charge of old St. Peter's Church on Barclay street, New York City, who had under his care not only New York City, but this section of New Jersey. It is said that he sent Dr. Roach here to look over the ground and do some missionary work. Dr. Roach soon made the acquaintance of an old family residing on property now owned by Scotto C. Nash, with whom he boarded at Weasel road, Clifton. His sympathies



for the fight for liberty were intense, and ere long he enlisted and was assigned as surgeon in the Southern Battalion, Second Regiment of Essex county. On one occasion he, with James Boggs, made a midnight ride on horseback, giving the alarm of the coming of the enemy. During the war he married Anna Gerritse; and when peace came, he resumed the practice of his profession here until about 1785, when he removed to Baltimore, Maryland.

Captain Daniel Neil was another Catholic of those early days. He was an Irishman of good education, and a most zealous supporter of the Colonies against Great Britain. He resided in a stone house at the north corner of the present River drive and Westervelt place, where he had extensive docks devoted to the shipping of iron, all of which he sacrificed for his adopted country. In December, 1776, he was placed in command of a New Jersey company known as the "Eastern Battery," organized for the protection of the inhabitants, and made up of volunteers from the county militia known as "New Jersey Levies" and "State Troops." This company was of great assistance to Washington and his worn-out troops, when they were on their retreat to Morristown. Captain Neil participated in the battle of Princeton, and died on the battlefield, January 3, 1777.

John Brower was another of the early Catholics who settled at Acquackanonk Landing, being lured by Dan Cupid. He married, in 1774. He was engaged in the hoop-pole and barrel business. In the year immediately preceding the Revolution came Thomas Noland and John Colyer, followed by Abraham, Jacob and David Brower, Peter Nix, John McCarthy, James and Thomas Sigler, James Ferrin, John Cannah, James Morris and John Kidney. In 1773, Robert McWilliams came, attracted by the charms of a pretty Irish girl, Anne Nutter, whom he married the next year. John Welles, John McCray and A. Koningh came about the same time that McWilliams did. Henry O'Toole, who married Abigail McCarthy in 1783, had been employed in the store of Robert Drummond in whose family Abigail was a servant; David Secor, clerk for Ryer Ryerson, married Bridget Gurgeson a year later; John Maghee, William Morris, Dennis McPick, John McCarthy, John and Thomas McGowan, James McGregor, John Koning, John Butler, John Ferguson, Arent and John King, Abel McPherson, John Flood, John Hancock, Nicholas McDougal, John Burns, Andrew McBat, David McCarter and John McGuffy arrived here between 1800 and 1821. Of them little is known, but the presumption is that they were employed on or about the docks, excepting the last named, who was an Irish schoolmaster. John McGuffy taught for a time in the village school, and was the father of James McGuffy to whom we are indebted for much of our information of those early days.

The District School was organized in Acquackanonk in 1693, and was well known and ranked high among the schools of this vicinity. This was in no small measure due to the knowledge and skill of its Irish Catholic teachers who were strict disciplinarians, many of them exceptionally well educated. There were few school teachers among the Hollanders who were the first settlers here. The result was that for the lack of a teacher the school was frequently closed. This, doubtless, accounts for the number of Irish schoolmasters who taught here, some of whom were Redemptioners. One such schoolmaster, who was engaged under the name of John Scanlon, a bachelor, taught successfully for ten years. He died suddenly at the Blanchard Tavern, where he boarded. Among his effects was a newspaper clipping reading as follows:

Ran away December 25th, last, from John Scott of Hanover Township, Morris County, province of New Jersey, a servant man, James Murphy, five feet eight inches high, much pitted with the small pox, long yellow hair tied behind. Served with said Scott as a schoolmaster. Had on a new bearskin coat, with broad hair buttons, light colored rateen jacket, check shirt, leather breeches, new worsted stockings and pumps. Who-





ever secures him shall have forty shillings reward. John Scott. Written in pencil across the type were the words "alias John Scanlon."

Terence Reilly, an Irish Catholic, succeeded Scanlon-Murphy. Reilly became noted as the best Latin teacher in the State. The most noted teacher of whom we have knowledge was Bernard H. Sheridan, an Irish Catholic, noted for his learning and power of discipline, and for a bright and kindly humor. He was a man much respected by the whole community. As an evidence of his popularity, we are told that when it was learned that he was about to leave, the scholars presented him with a memorial in which they expressed their appreciation of the benefits derived through his teaching, begging him to stay, a most unusual request in those days when the schoolmaster followed closely the Scriptural adage, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." He spent the remainder of his days in charge of the school in Paterson located at the Market Street Bridge. Before his death, he expressed a wish to be buried in the shadow of the old school in Acquackanonk, which stood within the churchyard of the old Reformed Church, and his wish was carried out. Many years after, the writer, who attended this school, from its windows read the following from his tombstone, ten feet away:

Here lies an honest man at rest,  
As ever God, in his image blest:  
A friend of man, a friend of truth,  
A friend of age, a guide of youth.  
If there's another world, he lives in bliss:  
If there is none, he made the most of this.

After Father Farmer's death, thirty odd years elapsed before another priest made a visit to Acquackanonk in the person of Father Langdill, who it is said, celebrated Mass at least once. By this time, Paterson began to loom big on the industrial horizon and, with the coming of the Erie railroad, the iron industry almost ceased at this place, the result of which was that nearly all the Catholics left for other fields. The few remaining here attended Mass in Paterson, which was a mission under the care of Father Philip Larrissey in 1822. Father Larrissey was a missionary priest who traveled between New York and Philadelphia. Father Langdill was the second priest who celebrated Mass in Paterson, and was said to have come at least once to Passaic.

In 1820, Father Bulger followed Father Langdill. It was he who erected the first building used for worship by Catholics in Paterson; and he was the first Catholic priest stationed permanently in that city. The few Catholics of Passaic continued to attend Mass in Paterson until about 1854, when Father Senez, of St. John's, Paterson, built St. Francis de Sales Church, Lodi. Thereafter the Catholics of Passaic attended Mass in Lodi until 1868, when St. Nicholas' Church was erected.

With the beginning of operations by the Dundee Manufacturing Company, there came to this place a number of Irish emigrants, most of whom were devout Catholics. With the accession of these newcomers the Catholics of Passaic soon began to feel that they should have a meeting place of their own. With this object in view, William Ryan, Michael Waters, Patrick Quinn, Richard Meade, Joseph Dunn, Farrel Sheridan, as a committee went to Paterson, and consulted Father Callan, then in charge of St. John's Church, who also attended the St. Francis de Sales Church of Lodi. Up to this time Passaic was little known. Not only did Paterson overshadow her, but even Lodi was of greater importance both in business enterprises, population and schools. Father Callan, who had come to Paterson the year before, (1861) knew very little of the place. The little he did know had caused him to conclude that it was an insignificant hamlet. When, therefore, his visitors asked his consent to hold tion. He looked over the field and gave consent, as he afterwards, said, more for the convenience of the few, than because of the real need of a church here at the time.



With thankful hearts, the committee published abroad the welcome news that Mass would be celebrated by Father Callan, at the residence of William Ryan, the following Sunday; when the parlor was filled, to the joy of all present. This was in 1862. Services were continued here for two years in private houses, conducted by the Rev. Fathers Schandel (who subsequently became the settled pastor), Callan and Senez.

*St. Nicholas' Church*—In 1864 quarters were secured in the mill building, still standing at the southwest corner of Canal and Passaic streets, and here services were held until the first church building was erected upon the site of the Passaic City Club, corner of Erie and Prospect streets. This was a two-story frame structure, remodeled out of a tenement house that had been built by Susan Van Gieson in 1836. On May 16, 1868, Rev. John J. Schandel, who was the priest in charge of the parish, purchased the premises, which on June 9, 1869, he conveyed to Bishop Bayley, who held title until April 12, 1875, when he conveyed the same to "St. Nicholas Church, Passaic," which had been incorporated.

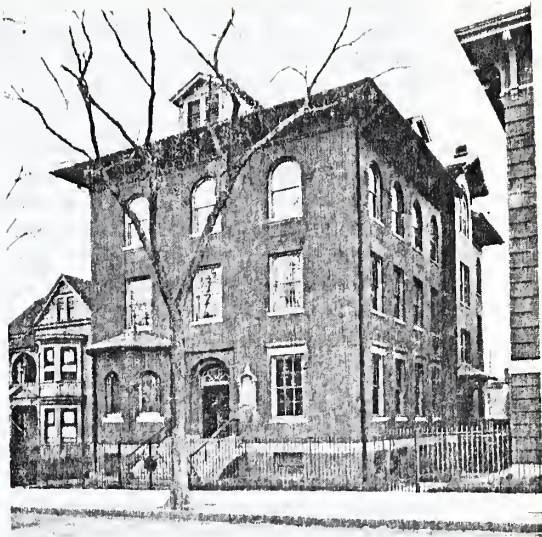
On the night of December 20, 1875, John Chase, a member of McLean Hose Company, set fire to the church, which was totally destroyed. For this dastardly services in Passaic, Father Callan reserved answer until he could make an investigation, Chase was convicted of incendiarism and sentenced to three years in State's prison.

Soon after the purchase of this property, it was realized that other locations were better suited for their purposes, and those in authority felt that a location nearer Dundee was to be preferred. Father Schandel, therefore, on September 14, 1870, purchased what are now Nos. 308 and 310 Passaic street, near State street, and on September 1, 1873, acquired the adjoining lots, Nos. 300, 302, 304 and 306, making a total frontage of 150 feet on Passaic street, extending back to Ann street, which he conveyed to the church in September, 1873. Here, undoubtedly, the church would have been erected but for Thomas Burke, an active, wide-awake member, who was the owner of the land on Washington place, where the church now stands. He induced the trustees to abandon the Passaic street site for the site on Washington place, which was acquired in 1874. The destruction of the old church presented an opportunity to erect the new stone edifice which had been planned. But alas! funds were lacking and nothing was ready, and as time was of so much importance, the old site was used for a new frame structure, answering the purposes of a church and rectory for ten years. In August, 1884, Father Louis Schneider was succeeded by Rev. John A. Sheppard, who was transferred from Dover.

Rev. Father John J. Schandel was a native of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. He came to this country in his boyhood and studied with the Benedictines at Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He was ordained by Bishop Bayley, the first Bishop of Newark, in 1859. He was immediately assigned as curate to St. John's, as assistant to Father Victor Beaudevin, Paterson, with the special duties of looking after the German Catholics. He established St. Boniface's Parish in Paterson and built the church. Altogether he was thirteen years in Paterson. In 1871 he began to celebrate Mass in Passaic, first in private houses and then in the mill, corner of Passaic and Canal streets, since called the Algonquin Mill. The old residents tell of him hearing confessions in the mill over the old water wheel, on Christmas Eve of 1870, when it was extremely cold, and when, it is said, he was frost bitten. When obliged to stay in Passaic over night, he put up with a family by the name of Keegan. He found some difficulty in securing ground for the church which he proposed to build, but finally succeeded in purchasing the site now occupied by the Passaic City Club. The owner was an Irishman and an Orangeman by the name of Gregory, who lived in New York City. After Gregory had agreed to sell the ground, a man named Ryndan wanted to secure the ground for a coal yard and offered Gregory more money than Father Schandel agreed to pay. But Orangeman and all that he was, Gregory kept his word,







SCHOOL

AUDITORIUM

CONVENT

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC PARISH





and Father Schandel took deed to the property for the amount at the price first named. On this site Father Schandel erected a two-story building, the first floor of which was designed for the church and the upper rooms to serve for his living quarters. He took up his abode here in the fall of 1871. Shortly after coming to Passaic, he set about organizing a parish in Carlstadt, and in 1872 he resigned his rectorship in Passaic and was assigned to the pastorate of the Carlstadt and Lodi parish. After two or three years he left Carlstadt and became assistant to Father Hogan, who was rector of St. Pius' Church in East Newark. After a stay of a year or two at East Newark, he was appointed to Stony Hill as its first resident rector, where he remained twenty-seven years. In 1904 the frailties of old age obliged him to resign his parish, and he passed the remainder of his life in retirement in Plainfield, New Jersey, where he died February 19, 1910, in his eighty-third year. His remains were interred in St. Mary's Cemetery, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Rev. Lewis Schneider was the second rector of St. Nicholas' Catholic Church in Passaic, having come here in 1872. Father Schneider at once proceeded to establish a school in connection with the church. One of his favorite quotations was that "Where there was no school, there would soon be no church." He called upon the late Mother Xavier to send three Sisters of Charity to open a parish school. The first school sessions were held in two barely furnished rooms in the upper part of the church building. Father Schneider took a lively interest in guarding and directing the "infant school," as he termed it, visiting the school room every day and encouraging the children, also teaching them to sing, and accompanying their singing with the violin, of which he was quite a master.

In 1876 Father Schneider purchased the Spencer Academy on Howe avenue, and this remained the parish school for ten years or more. Father Schneider was very fond of the children under his charge, and sought through them to better the conditions of his people whom he taught along progressive lines and, in fact, in advance of the teachers of today. He made it a practice to see that the children were well fed and clothed, and he used to draw on his interesting experiences in other missions to point out the errors of household management; always he would state "too much beefsteak and not enough cereals and vegetables." On one occasion he advised one of the women of his parish to cook rice for her family. She was deeply offended and remarked whether his Reverence thought she was a Chinaman. In 1883 Father Schneider was called to a Gypsy encampment in Clifton, to attend a sick person. On his return trip the whiffle tree of his carriage broke and he was thrown out. His arm was broken near the shoulder and he was otherwise injured. From that time forward, Father Schneider began to fail in health and soon was unable to attend properly to all his duties. On the feast of the Assumption in 1884, the good Father passed away. He was greatly missed by his people. His remains were interred at his own request in St. Rose's Cemetery in Milburn, Morris county, New Jersey, of which parish he had formerly been Rector.

The third rector of St. Nicholas' Catholic Church, Passaic, was the Rev. John A. Sheppard. He was born in Ireland, but came to this country at a very early age, and was brought up in St. John's, Paterson. His preparatory studies were made in St. Charles' College, Maryland, and Seton Hall, South Orange, New Jersey, of which he is an alumnus of the class of 1872. His theological studies were made in the diocesan seminary, and he was ordained in the college chapel, June 10th, 1876. His only appointment as assistant was at the cathedral, where he spent almost seven years, discharging for a time the duties of chancellor of the diocese. It was during this period that he established the Sacred Heart Union for the support of wayward boys in the institution at Denville, New Jersey, which afterward was removed to Arlington, New Jersey. In February, 1883, he was sent to Dover, and in 1884, on the death of Father Schneider, he was made Rector of St. Nicholas' of Passaic. Here it



may be said that he built up the parish, for practically everything had to be done. With characteristic energy Father Sheppard set to work to build a house of worship worthy of the growing importance of the town and congregation. In the face of great difficulties and discouragements he succeeded in erecting a church and rectory which together cost in the neighborhood of \$80,000. In 1886 he purchased a residence for the sisters for \$6,000, and in 1892 he purchased a plot of ground at the corner of Hamilton avenue and Washington place and erected thereon a school building at a total cost of \$20,000. In 1896 he opened a hospital in the rear of the school, and in 1897 he built the present admirable St. Mary's Hospital. Without a peer as an administrator, Bishop Wigger was convinced that Father Sheppard was the man to grapple with the burden of debt left by Monsignor De Concilio. It was long the declared policy of the Monsignor that he did not intend to leave his successor nothing to do. Father Sheppard has greatly reduced the debt, decorated and embellished the church with painted windows, marble pulpit, etc. On the promotion of Bishop O'Connor to the See of Newark, Father Sheppard was appointed vicar-general. Few were surprised at the honor conferred upon him, for his past services in the church entitled him to distinction, and his ability fitted him for the responsibility. On October 18th, 1903, he was vested with the purple of Domestic Prelate, the first conferred on any priest by Pope Pius X.

Rev. Thomas J. Kernan, the fourth and present rector of St. Nicholas' Catholic Church, was born at Hamilton, Scotland, January 6, 1858, and came to America with his parents when he was ten years of age. He made his preparatory studies in Villanova College, Pennsylvania, and his theological studies in Seton Hall Seminary, South Orange, New Jersey, where he was ordained May 19, 1883. His first year in the ministry was spent as assistant to Father Leonard of St. Michael's Church in Newark. He was then appointed to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Newark, where he served as assistant to the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Doane for six years. In 1890 he was appointed assistant to Monsignor Cody and financial administrator of St. James's Church, Newark. On September 1, 1893, he was authorized by the late Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger to organize a new parish in Kearny, New Jersey. Here he erected St. Cecilia's Church, established a school, and secured ample property for the further development of the parish. On April 6, 1898, he succeeded Father Sheppard as rector of St. Nicholas' Catholic Church of Passaic.

Since coming to Passaic Father Kernan has built the auditorium and convent which stands on Jefferson street, purchased the eighteen acres of land as an addition to the old St. Nicholas' Cemetery, has renovated and decorated St. Nicholas' Church, and has purchased several pieces of property adjoining the church buildings for possible future development. He also organized the Clifton parish and erected the present St. Paul's Church.

*Holy Trinity German Roman Catholic Church*, on Hope avenue, corner Jackson street, in the city of Passaic, is one of the later parishes which have been established in the city of Passaic. It was in the month of June, 1900, that a number of heads of families in that part of the city assembled for the purpose of electing delegates who were sent to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger, at Seton Hall, South Orange, New Jersey, for the purpose of securing permission to establish a Catholic parish for the German speaking people of the city of Passaic, New Jersey.

It was about the same time that the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger laid the corner stone of the new St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church, where the committee or delegation representing the Holy Trinity Parish, had assembled and awaited the arrival of the Bishop and placed before him the purpose of their committee. Having received a favorable consideration the committee bore with them to their home the Rev. Bishop's permission to establish a German Catholic Parish on Hope avenue, corner







RECTORY  
SCHOOL HOUSE AND PARISH HALL

CHURCH  
SISTERS' CONVENT

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY (R. C.)



Jackson street. At the same time the Rt. Rev. Bishop appointed the Rev. V. Clebowski as temporary rector of the parish, and he at once entered upon the task of organizing the German speaking Catholics of the Holy Trinity Congregation. The certificate of incorporation was signed August 17, 1900. Mr. Jacob Martin and Mr. George Winkler, Sr., were appointed lay trustees.

Immediately upon the establishment of the parish, the Franciscan Friars of the city of Paterson, New Jersey, gave their services to the newly formed congregation. They came there and preached the Word of God in the Assembly Hall at No. 25 Dayton avenue, where they offered every encouragement to the faithful members, admonishing them to remain true to their Holy Catholic Faith. These faithful communicants not only were true to their faith, but they also gave generously of their time and services towards securing sufficient capital to make a beginning, by acquiring a tract of land comprising six and a half lots at the corner of Hope avenue and Jackson street, in September, 1903. Here the present church edifice of the Holy Trinity Parish was finally erected. It was during this period of the organization of the Holy Trinity Parish that the new St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church was completed and the members of the Holy Trinity Parish were permitted to attend the services of the Holy Mass, then rendered by the Rev. V. Clebowski in St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church, Quincy street.

On August 2, 1902, Rev. Joseph J. Hasel was appointed pastor of the Holy Trinity Congregation, and he at once applied his time and enthusiasm towards the procurement of funds for the erection of a church edifice, and accordingly in 1903 the laying of the corner stone of the Holy Trinity Church was performed, the sermon for the occasion having been delivered by the Rev. R. J. Huelsebusch, the rector of St. Augustine's Church in the city of Newark, New Jersey. The dedication of the edifice was finally performed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop J. J. O'Connor, September 6, 1903. A rectory was finally purchased by the Holy Trinity Parish at the corner of Hope avenue and Harrison street. It was not long after when the rector secured two school rooms at 165 Hope avenue in a store formerly occupied as a barber shop. Here the sisters of St. Dominic first began teaching about one hundred children, in September, 1906; and under their kind care and solicitude the school progressed rapidly, so that in 1907 the increase in its attendance had become so marked that a new building was erected on a plot of eight lots on the corner of Hope avenue and Harrison street, in close proximity to the present rectory. During this period the rector, Rev. Joseph J. Hasel became ill and after a long period of suffering he died at the rectory, March 15, 1908.

On March 30, 1908, the present rector, Reverend E. F. Schulte was appointed, the parish being in the meanwhile under the spiritual direction of the Rev. Stanislas Betts, O. F. M., of Paterson, New Jersey. New life sprung up immediately after the installation of the new rector. One year later the attendance of the school had increased to four hundred children, and in order to obtain sufficient space for class rooms, the living rooms of the sisters were temporarily converted for that purpose. The number of pupils rapidly increased so that the self-sacrificing rector gave his rectory as a dwelling for the sisters, being content with two rooms in the school house for office purposes and his private study. As the enrollment of pupils constantly increased, the Rev. Pastor resolved to construct an edifice with the approval of the congregation which was to contain a hall and nine adequate class rooms in addition to a spacious basement. This building has finally become known as the Trinity Lyceum, and was dedicated thus on December 26, 1910, by the Rev. Monsignor A. Stecher of St. Peter's Church in Newark, New Jersey. During 1911 the enrollment increased to five hundred pupils, and the Rev. F. Bucher, a native of Switzerland, was installed as curate, November 1, 1911, to assist in the work of the growing parish.





In 1914, a commercial department was added to the curriculum of the school, a feature which proved eminently satisfactory, and in 1919 graduated a class of thirty pupils. The present enrollment of pupils in the Trinity Lyceum is over nine hundred with fourteen school sisters and three lay teachers, as a teaching force. In August 1918, a new site, consisting of a tract of ten lots with a dwelling thereon was purchased at No. 228 Hope avenue. The rapid progress and success of the parish is the direct result of the persevering efforts of the rectors and the faithful services of the sisters of St. Dominic.

*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*—Consequent upon the many hardships and sufferings of the people, following the wars soon after 1870, many Italian families decided to leave their Motherland and settle in the United States. While these Italian emigrants were not among the early settlers who came to the shores of this country, they were not unconscious of the fact that others of their countrymen, of genius and enterprise, had preceded them to the shores of America as early as 1492. These same people, also were cognizant of the fact that when they chose the United States as the land of their adoption, they were selecting a country and a government whose people fully appreciated the deeds of Columbus, Verrazano, Vespucci, Garibaldi and other illustrious Italians who gave the best of their thought and genius towards advancing the greatness of the New World. At the present time, 1921, there is scarcely a locality between the Atlantic and Pacific shores, and between the shores of the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, which is not inhabited by people of Italian extraction, who have become universally recognized for their industry, thrift and other fine qualities, that have made them useful and patriotic citizens.

About the period of 1890, the town of Passaic had but few Italian families which had settled there and builded their homes. These settlers were inspired with the success which they had achieved in their newly adopted town, and, in consequence, many of their countrymen in Italy and members of their family circles and friends, encouraged by their progress, likewise bid adieu to the shores of "sunny Italy" and emigrated to this country to join their relatives and friends.

During the years of the early settlement of these Italian families in the then rapidly growing town of Passaic, their spiritual needs were ministered to by the clergymen of St. Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church, where many attended Mass, up to July, 1905, when the Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of the city of Newark, sent to Passaic the Rev. Luigi Darder, who celebrated Mass and preached the Gospel in their native tongue. The good Father Darder, through his persevering energy and personal initiative, succeeded during the first year of his rectorship in establishing the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in a building which had been donated to the parish by the Messrs. Campbell Morrell Company in Park place, near State street, in Passaic.

In 1910 the Rev. John B. Salerno took charge of the rectorship of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and being progressively inclined, succeeded in purchasing a building in McLean street, on which he had made extensive improvements, and converted it for the use of holding services and celebrating Mass. This site, with its building, became the temporary house of prayer for the Italian residents of Passaic. The parish was finally incorporated on April 15, 1913, under the title of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and became one of the parishes of the Roman Catholic diocese of the State of New Jersey under the Rt. Rev. Bishop John J. O'Connor. The Rt. Rev. John J. Sheppard, Vicar-General; the Rev. John B. Salerno, rector; Giuseppe Quadara and Domenico Dini, constituted the Board of Trustees.

In November, 1913, a serious contention arose and the spiritual leadership of these Italian-American families passed from one clergyman to another until Decem-







FRONT AND SIDE VIEW  
ST. ANTHONY'S ITALIAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH





ber 28, 1917, when Bishop O'Connor designated the Rev. Joseph Masi to take charge of the parish. Soon after assuming his duties Rev. Masi succeeded in establishing obedience and faith among his parishioners, and it was not long before the parish had again been placed in a state of advancement and progress as a result of the persevering effort and sympathetic counsel of this priest, whom the people of the parish soon came to love and esteem, as their spiritual advisor and comforter.

Among the first activities of the Rev. Father Masi, was the encouragement of parish organization among his people. These auxiliary organizations now constitute a tower of material and moral strength, co-ordinating towards the betterment of the church organization. Among these activities may be mentioned the Building Association, which is at the present time, 1921, greatly aiding in securing the funds for the erection of a new church edifice, on a plot of ground recently acquired at the corner of McLean street and Park place, immediately adjoining the present site of the present church edifice. The new church edifice is designed in the Roman style and will have a seating capacity for five hundred persons. The ground floor or basement, of the building will be used as the quarters for a parochial school. The Italian-American residents of Passaic have not failed to appreciate the services of their energetic and devout rector, the Rev. Father Masi, and have given their earnest and enthusiastic support in advancing the proposed church.

The Rev. Joseph Masi was born in the town of Castelgrande, February 11, 1884 in the province of Basilicata, Kingdom of Italy. He received his preliminary education in his native town and began to study the classics, philosophy and theology in the seminary of Muro Lucano, in the same province. Soon after attaining the age of twenty-one, he was drafted into the service of the Italian Army, serving in the telegraphic department. After he was honorably discharged he was ordained to the priesthood by special dispensation, June 5, 1909. His first charge was as curate in the parochial church in his native town. The Rev. Father Masi came to this country in December, 1913, and entered upon the charge of curate in St. Michael's Church in the city of Paterson, New Jersey, of which congregation the Rev. Felice Cianci was rector. Father Masi, while curate of St. Michael's Church in Paterson, was also in charge of the administrative duties of St. Michael's parochial school. Immediately upon his appointment to the rectorship of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in the city of Passaic, in 1917, he relinquished his parochial duties in Paterson.

*St. Anthony of Padova Italian National Catholic Church*—St. Anthony of Padova, Italian National Church, on the corner of Oak street and Myrtle avenue, of the city of Passaic, is an organization of recent establishment, and its membership is chiefly Italian families, who have settled here and established their homes in this city during the last quarter of a century. The constantly increasing need of the helpful influence of a "home church," became more apparent to these Italian families, who had been compelled to go a long distance from their domiciles to attend the religious service of the church of the faith to which they had been reared in their Mother Country. This constantly increasing need became known to some of the clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church in the Newark diocese and after mature consideration it was decided to organize a new parish in this section of the city of Passaic.

The Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini, had, during the two previous years, ministered to the spiritual needs of the chapel and orphanage, in the southeastern section of the city of Passaic, and in 1918, Father Bianchini purchased a tract of land at the corner of Oak street and Tulip street, comprising an area of forty-four city lots, at a cost of \$12,000, upon which it was proposed to erect a new church edifice and other accessory buildings. These plans were finally submitted to the Right Rev. John J. O'Connor, D. D., Bishop of the Newark diocese, who after some certainly





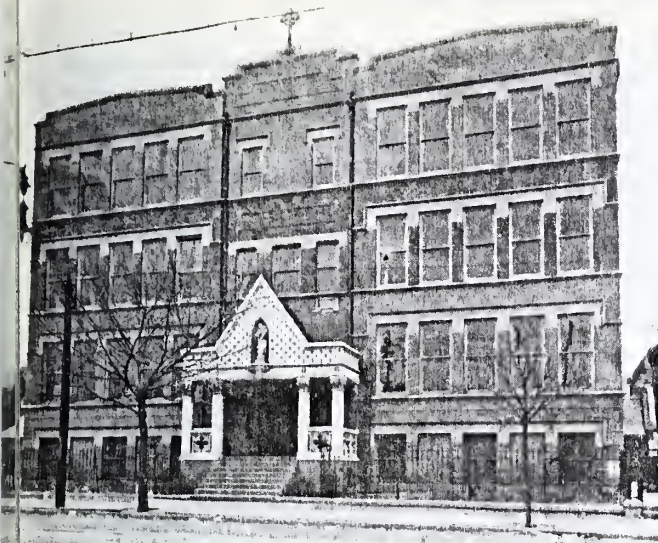
non-mature consideration, disapproved. The earnest and enthusiastic prelates, and the Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini were not to be discouraged, however, and they finally decided to enter upon the undertaking of this new enterprise without the "diocesan approbation," but with the enthusiastic approval of the people, who confidently accepted the Bishop's challenge thrown to their delegates, of the impossibility of erecting a new church. Accordingly on January 1st, 1918, a committee of eight men, met to consider organization of a new and independent parish, which after some discussion, was finally agreed upon. At the same meeting Enidio Lazzara was elected president; Gaetano Russo Caltabiano, treasurer; Giovanni Lauricella, secretary, and Frank Mascellino, Arrigo Morris, Gaetano Lanteri and James Scancarello were chosen members of the board of trustees; L. F. Orbe was made honorary president of the organization.

These gentlemen, as members of the executive committee, unánimously gave their approval and support to the purpose of erecting a suitable church edifice and other accessory buildings, in this section of Passaic, and accordingly on January 24, 1918, Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini secured the site on the northeast corner of Oak street and Myrtle avenue, where the Roman Catholic Church of St. Anthony of Padova now stands. On January 28 following, a conference was held by the members of the aforementioned executive committee, with the Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini, and at this meeting it was decided to secure a charter for the incorporation of the Passaic Catholic Apostolic Roman Independent Church of St. Antonio di Padova, Inc. Immediately after receiving the charter, Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini secured the services of the noted architect Antonio Vegliante, of Garfield, Bergen county, New Jersey, and on March 15, 1919, ground was broken on the chosen site with suitable and impressive ceremonies in the presence of the Rev. Father Antonio Lenza Roman Pawlikowski, O. Jakimowich and A. Yuppa, who assisted in the exercises upon this occasion. The final completion of the church edifice, was directed by the Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini, assisted by Antonio Pollara, a noted mason and builder of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey.

On May 11, 1919, the cornerstone of St. Anthony's Italian National Independent Apostolic Roman Catholic Church was laid, in the presence of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Francis Hodur of the Polish National Catholic Church of Scranton, Pennsylvania, with appropriate ceremonies, and on August 31 following, the church edifice was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hodur, who on the following day confirmed seventeen hundred children of the parish, a fact which was most unique and unusual on account of the large number constituting the confirmation class. Under the helpful and sympathetic ministrations of the Rev. Constantino Bianchini, and as a result of his indefatigable and persevering efforts, the membership of the parish of St. Anthony of Padova Catholic Church, now exceeds three thousand souls. The Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini, as a result of the success which he has thus far achieved, purposes in the immediate future, to erect additional buildings of modern design and architecture, which will contain an orphanage, an auditorium, an ambulatorium, school rooms, a library and reading room, with suitable reception rooms with such facilities, that will make the same attractive and interesting to the youthful boys and girls of the parish circle.

The Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini was born in the town of Luca, in the classic city of Tuscany, Kingdom of Italy. He received his entire education, elementary, classical and theological, in his native city, Lucca. Father Bianchini was ordained to the priesthood in 1900 by the Rt. Rev. Bishop G. Volpi. Immediately after his ordination, Father Bianchini was stationed at Villa a Roggio, Lucca, where he served as assistant rector for a period of two years. Upon the decease of the presiding rector, Father Bianchini succeeded to the rectorship, and remained there for the next five years. Soon after 1910, Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini was as-





ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

REV. JULIUS MANTEUFFEL

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH





signed to missionary work under the auspices of St. Anthony of Padova, an order instituted by the late Pope Pius. While engaged in this work, Father Bianchini crossed the Atlantic Ocean forty-nine times, and during the many years of his work in the missionary field, visited South America, where he labored for some time in Argentina, and ministered the faith to over twenty thousand souls who comprised his congregation in that country. From Argentina, Father Bianchini again returned to his native land, and soon after his arrival home, was stationed at Palermo on the Island of Sicily, where he assisted the immigration authorities in the care of young women and children, who had been rejected by the Bureau of Immigration, because of sickness or physical disabilities, founding there an asylum for rejected people.

Soon after leaving this responsible office, the Rev. Father Constantino Bianchini came to the United States and immediately upon his arrival here in 1916, came to Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, where his ministerial achievements have found a fertile field, and have been productive of unlimited good and helpfulness in Passaic and the surrounding communities.

*St. Joseph's*—The congregation of St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Passaic, New Jersey, is chiefly constituted of Polish families, who came from the late Kingdom of Poland and settled in the various communities of the Passaic valley, where they readily found employment in the numerous industries and worsted manufacturing mills. These Polish families, having left their Fatherland with the view of improving their condition in life, hoped to find here better opportunities to apply their skill and labor and to establish themselves with their families in the land of Freedom and Liberty.

Many of these Polish settlers came to Passaic and here they established their homes and reared their families. A large majority of these families, having been reared in the faith and precepts of the Catholic church in their native land, desired to have the Gospel preached to them in their native language. This fact soon came to be recognized by a number of the leading clergymen of the Catholic diocese of Newark. It was finally decided to organize a new Catholic parish among these Polish families in Passaic, and accordingly the Rev. Boleslas Kwiatkowski was directed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger of the Newark Catholic diocese, to organize a congregation and incorporate what has since become known as St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church of Passaic. The first services were held in the one story frame building, facing Quincy street, near Parker avenue. Here the Rev. Father Kwiatkowski served Mass to the little congregation, which first consisted of about sixty or seventy families and they continued to worship in the little frame church up to 1901. The rector, Rev. Kwiatkowski, was transferred to St. Anthony's Polish Catholic Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1895.

Rev. Valentine Chlebowski succeeded to the rectorship of St. Joseph's Catholic parish and faithfully ministered to the spiritual needs of his congregation. The membership and the number of Polish families of the parish, rapidly increased and the little church edifice in Quincy street no longer afforded sufficient room and seating capacity for the rapidly increasing congregation. Accordingly Rector Chlebowski and his parishioners decided to secure additional land immediately adjacent to the site which they occupied, and in 1901, the rector secured the services of one of the leading architects of Paterson, who furnished the design and drawings for the new church edifice and rectory which were erected on the newly acquired site, corner Monroe street and Parker avenue. The church edifice and rectory are both constructed of yellow pressed brick and are of modern and artistic design. The entire expenditure for the land and the erection of the church edifice and rectory exceeded over seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000).

Rev. Valentine Chlebowski continued to minister to the spiritual needs of this





rapidly growing congregation for the next few years and during this time had, by his kindly and sympathetic administrations, won the love and esteem of his parishioners. As the number of Polish families of St. Joseph's Catholic Congregation increased and the children of these families attained to the years which demanded their educational training, class rooms were established in the little frame church building in Quincy street, and the children were taught their catechism and school curriculum both in their mother tongue and in the English language. But the number of children of St. Joseph's parish rapidly increased and the school building in Quincy street no longer afforded sufficient room and facility. Thus the rector and his parishioners decided to provide suitable facilities and school rooms for the children of the parish, and secured a number of building lots facing on Monroe street. Upon this site they erected a modern school building with adequate facilities and class rooms for educational instruction and training of all the children of St. Joseph's parish. The good Father Chlebowski passed away at the parish home of St. Joseph's, January 26, 1912, and at the time of his funeral obsequies, many tributes of love and affection were placed upon his bier by his parishioners.

Rev. Julius Manteuffel, who had faithfully served as assistant of St. Joseph's Catholic Church from 1905 to 1908, was directed to organize the St. Casimir Polish Catholic Church at Tyler and East Kinney streets, in Newark, where he faithfully ministered to a congregation of over six hundred families. In 1912, Rev. Julius Manteuffel was appointed rector of St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Parish in Passaic, where he has since faithfully ministered to the spiritual needs of the members of his congregation and has by his enterprise and progressive methods contributed much to the social advancement as well as the moral welfare of his parishioners. In 1921, Father Manteuffel, having realized the increasing demand upon his school facilities, decided to erect an additional story to the new modern school building on Monroe street, and completed the same at a cost of about \$35,000. The present capacity of the class rooms of St. Joseph's Parish School provide ample facility for educating and training all the children of St. Joseph's Parish. The school curriculum is being taught by twelve of the Filician Sisters of St. Francis, of Lodi. The entire group of buildings of St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church parish, comprising the church edifice, the rectory, the new school building and the original little frame church facing Quincy street, which has in recent years been changed to a two story building, and the sisters' house, facing Quincy street, all together can safely be classed among the leading church and the parish school buildings in Northern New Jersey.

Rev. Julius Manteuffel was born in the province of Posen, Poland, which at that time was under Prussia, October 22, 1873. His father, having been left an orphan during the tender years of his boyhood, was reared under the guardianship of the local Prussian government and the family name of Manteuffel was forced upon him by the local governmental authorities. Upon attaining to manhood, John Manteuffel married Mary Daniel, whose parents also lived in the province of Posen. Their family name was really Danielski, but at the time of the invasion of Napoleon Bonaparte's army, having been persecuted and expatriated by the Prussian government for siding with the Polish cause and Napoleon, their grandfather was obliged to flee and change his name by dropping the "ski" in order that he might obscure the identity of his origin. Julius Manteuffel, received his early educational training in the old country, where he was reared to the age of sixteen years under the parental roof. In 1889, his father and three daughters, Emelia, Caroline and Anna, decided to emigrate to this country, and young Julius also joined the little family circle and embarked from Bremen, bound for Baltimore. Soon after setting foot on American soil, John Manteuffel and his children settled in Alpena, Michigan, where the family continued to reside for some time. Five years after his arrival in this country,



Julius Manteuffel decided to prepare himself for the priesthood and accordingly entered upon a course of studies in St. Lawrence College, at Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin, and graduated from that institution in 1899. He next entered the Polish Seminary at Detroit, Michigan, where he pursued a course of studies during the next three years. Upon leaving this institution, he entered Kendrick Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, whence he was called to Seton Hall College, South Orange, New Jersey, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop John J. O'Connor. He was there ordained to the priesthood, May 18, 1905, and soon after his ordination, became identified with St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church on Monroe street, Passaic. Here he has since ministered to the spiritual needs of those Polish families, who constitute the membership of his congregation, and as a result of his kindly and sympathetic teaching and guidance, he has won the love and obedience of his parishioners along with the admiration and high esteem of his fellow-citizens in Passaic, who learned to appreciate the great work of his church and school, towards advancing the social and moral interests of Passaic and the surrounding communities.

*Holy Rosary*—The former Kingdom of Poland has furnished many settlers who have come to this country with their families hoping here to improve their opportunities and establish their families in the land of Freedom and Liberty. Upon their arrival in this country many of these families settled in the industrial districts of New Jersey and New York. A particularly desirable location was the rapidly growing town of Passaic and the surrounding communities, on both the Eastern and Western banks of the Passaic River. A large majority of these settlers had been reared in the faith and precepts of the Catholic Church in their native land, a fact which soon became recognized by a number of leading clergymen of the Catholic Diocese in the city of Newark, New Jersey. It was finally decided to organize a new Catholic Parish among these new families in Passaic and the surrounding community, and accordingly in 1913, the Reverend Julius Manteuffel had incorporated the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. In this undertaking he did not meet with immediate success owing to the unfavorable commercial conditions of that time, and in consequence the project was permitted to stand in abeyance up to March, 1918.

The number of Polish families who had settled in the various communities along the Passaic River, and particularly in the Eastern District of Passaic, had increased to such a marked degree that the need of providing for these new settlers the spiritual comforts of a church edifice and a Rector to minister to their moral welfare, was recognized by the Catholic clergy of the Newark Diocese. The Reverend Stanislaus Kruczek, Rector of St. Michael's Church at Kingsland, New Jersey, was accordingly directed by the Right Reverend John J. O'Connor, Bishop of the Newark Diocese, to organize the parish of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Passaic. The Reverend Father Julius Manteuffel, after careful investigation had selected a tract of land which he secured through purchase, located on the Western bank of the Passaic River, facing the present thoroughfare of Wall street, immediately adjacent to the Passaic and Garfield bridge, which spans the river at that point. Soon after Reverend Father Kruczek had been appointed Rector, he directed Frederick J. Schwarz, a noted architect of the city of Paterson, New Jersey, to design and draw the plans of the present church edifice and rectory as they now stand upon the site above mentioned.

The Holy Rosary Catholic Church is entirely unique in its construction and appearance having practically the appearance of a three-story building. The basement is laid out in the form of a modern auditorium with a ceiling twenty-eight feet in height and a floor space of eighty-two feet in width and one hundred and seventy-two feet in length. This floor constitutes the church room proper with a modern altar and other accessory features of artistic design. The second floor above the basement is divided into ten class rooms fitted up with modern furniture and is used as the





parish school. The building is covered with a modern slate roof bearing midway between the gables an attractive cupola which contains the church bell. The walls of the entire edifice are of cream-colored, pressed brick with a number of attractive windows on the west and east sides of the building. The rectory of the Holy Rosary Catholic parish is a three-story building, the walls of which are constructed of cream-colored pressed brick and like the church edifice proper, has an unique appearance. The rectory has a basement and sixteen rooms consisting of living rooms, reception rooms and executive offices, with a sun parlor on the first floor facing the east. The church and rectory with the lands upon which they are situated, represent an actual cost of over one-half million dollars. It can be correctly stated that the material growth and advancement of the parish has been beyond the most sanguine expectations of the rector and his people, and at the present time, 1921, the membership of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church comprises over seven thousand souls, all of whom are of Polish ancestry. This parish of the Catholic Diocese of the City of Newark, New Jersey, had become recognized as a potential influence in advancing the moral and actual interests of its members and of the surrounding community.

Reverend Father Stanislaus Kruczek was born in the suburban town of Zielonki, not far distant from the City of Krakow, in the former Kingdom of Poland, August 29th, 1881. His parents were John and Sophie (Lisowska) Kruczek. Stanislaus Kruczek obtained his elementary training in the schools of Krakow and he next entered Jan Kazimir University in Lwow, Kingdom of Poland. A course of study of the fine arts and literature was followed by a course in the law. Later he entered the theological seminary in Lwow, where he continued his study for a period of three years. He next studied theology in the Lwow University for another two years he pursued his ecclesiastical studies in the University in Innsbruck in Tyrol, Austria, where he was finally ordained to the priesthood by Prince Arch Bishop of Brixen of Tyrol in 1910. In October following Reverend Father Stanislaus Kruczek came to America as assistant at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Passaic, New Jersey. He filled this office up to February 27th, 1912, at which time he was transferred as assistant at St. Cazimir Catholic Church in the City of Newark, New Jersey. Here he was actively engaged during the next year, when he was directed by the Bishop of the Newark Diocese, to organize the parish and congregation in the town of Kingsland, which upon incorporation became known as St. Michael's Catholic Church. Father Stanislaus Kruczek continued at St. Michael's Catholic Church during the next five years. Having erected the church edifice and auditorium and a modern rectory at an expenditure of over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which sum was completely liquidated, upon the day of settlement of the church debt, Father Kruczek was transferred by the Right Reverend Bishop John J. O'Connor to his present charge, the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, in the city of Passaic. Here his achievements have been no less remarkable than those of the Kingsland parish. It might be of interest to add that, during his rectorship at St. Michael's Catholic Church at Kingsland, Father Kruczek pursued a regular course of study of law in the Law Department of the Fordham University for a period aggregating three years.

*St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church*—One of the imposing and attractive church edifices of the city of Passaic, is located on First street, between Bergen and Jefferson streets, in the Dundee District of the city. It was in 1890 that a number of families of the Eastern District of the city of Passaic and the surrounding communities were organized by the Rev. Nicephore Chanath, who was a great scholar and a priest, from the diocese of Munkacs, Hungary. Being possessed of high educational attainments, he was delegated for the purpose of assisting these families towards organizing what is now St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church through the Apostolic Delegate Satolio, of Washington, D. C. It was on November 14, 1891, that





UPPER LEFT, THE PARSONAGE

THE CHURCH SCHOOL, FRONT VIEW

THE VERY REVEREND MICHAEL JACKOVICS

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF THE UNITED CATHOLIC GREEK RITE,  
PASSAIC, N. J.





Father Chanath held a conference with the families of Passaic and the surrounding communities who made the appeal towards organizing the first congregation of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church, and as a result of this meeting, a committee was appointed for the purpose of erecting a suitable building and church edifice on the present site where St. Michael's Church and Rectory now stand. Peter Kovalcsik, Michael Bolyko, Michael Prisztas, and Joseph Nevesnyak were appointed a committee by the Rev. Nicephore Chanath, and soon after suitable plans had been prepared, they were sent to the then Bishop Wigger of the diocese of Newark, New Jersey, who promptly gave his approval of the same. On November 14, 1892, Stephan Szokall and Nicholas Hytra were appointed trustees for St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Congregation, and the following year the present rectory and a frame church edifice were erected on the site now occupied by St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church, with a seating capacity of about 300 persons. Father Chanath continued his work with St. Michael's Congregation up to December 20, 1894, at which time the Rev. Eugene Szatala was directed to assume the spiritual charge and ministrations of the congregation by the then Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger of the Newark Diocese. It was during Father Szatala's administration that the number of members of the parish rapidly increased, and in March, 1902, the Rev. Nicholas Molcsanyi was appointed rector, and under his guidance and administration the parish continued its rapid increase of membership, the communicants of the church coming from the cities of Dover, Hibernia, Clifton, Garfield, Lodi, and various other nearby places, aggregating at that time about 600 families, the seating capacity of the original church edifice no longer being adequate to accommodate the large attendance. The rector and trustees, after having held a number of conferences, decided to have suitable plans drawn for the erection of a new and imposing brick church edifice, which after due consideration, and with the final approval of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wigger, of the Newark Diocese, the present imposing and attractive edifice of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church was erected upon the original site on First street. The church edifice is an imposing and attractive structure, having two main towers and a central tower or cupola, with a seating capacity of over 800. Soon after the completion of the new St. Michael's Church edifice in 1905, an unfortunate variance of sentiment and opinion began to manifest itself in the circle of the members of the congregation, and as a result thereof, the membership of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church became divided, the retiring portion of the congregation having erected a new church edifice at the corner of Monroe and Third streets, in the Fourth Ward of the city of Passaic. In February, 1906, Rev. Iren Janitzky was appointed rector by the Rt. Rev. Bishop John J. O'Connor, of the Newark Diocese. Rev. Janitzky successfully continued his labors and services with St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church up to September, 1915, in which year the Rev. Valentine Balogh was appointed by the first Greek-Catholic bishop, the Rt. Rev. S. S. Ortinsky, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Rev. Father Balogh continued his charge of the congregation up to 1918, in which year the Very Rev. Michael Jackovics was appointed rector by the Very Rev. Martyak, the Apostolic Administrator of the Greek-Catholic church in the United States, Father Jackovics having come from a recent charge in the city of Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he had served as rector of St. John the Baptist Greek-Catholic Church for a period of over sixteen years. Since the beginning of Father Jackovics's rectorship of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church, the membership of the congregation has gradually increased and aggregates over 3,000 souls. During Father Jackovics' administration, two large class-rooms were equipped for school purposes, where the curriculum of the elementary classes have been regularly taught by two lay instructors. Not only has the membership of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church been greatly increased under the helpful guidance and spiritual administration of the Very Rev. Michael Jackovics, but he has also created a spirit of harmony





and true Christian love that has been far-reaching in the various communities wherein the members of the congregation have their homes.

Rev. Father Michael Jackovics, rector of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church of Passaic, New Jersey, was born in the village of Puznyak-I'alva, in old Hungary, January 24, 1875. His father, the Rev. Nicholas Jackovics, was a priest in the same locality in Hungary, and it is also authoritatively stated that for a period during seven generations the ancestors of Father Michael Jackovics had been priests in their native country, where they had become noted for their scholarly and high educational attainments. Rev. Michael Jackovics obtained his elementary educational training in the schools of the neighborhood where he was born. His preparatory training was obtained in the high school in the city of Ungvar, where he finally entered upon a course of study in the university of that city. Here he concluded his studies, and was ordained to the priesthood at the age of twenty-three years by the Rt. Rev. Julius Firczak, D. D., and bishop of the Munkacs diocese in Hungary. Soon after his ordination to the priesthood, Father Jackovics was made an assistant priest in the town of Hust, Hungary, one of the largest congregations of the diocese. He continued there as assistant for a period of six months, when he was delegated to come to the United States by the bishop of Munkacs, and upon his arrival in the city of Bridgeport, Connecticut, he there at once began the organization of the First Greek-Catholic Congregation. This congregation has since become one of the leading organizations of the Greek-Catholic church in this country. After having completed his work in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Father Jackovics was sent to the town of Lansford, Carbon county, Pennsylvania, where he again took up the duties and administration of the Greek-Catholic Church, and also served other Greek-Catholic congregations in the surrounding country. In the month of July, 1902, Father Michael Jackovics was invited by the Rt. Rev. M. J. Hoban, bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania, to take charge of the St. John's Greek-Catholic Church in that city, where he faithfully ministered to his congregation for over sixteen years. In 1908, the Very Rev. Michael Jackovics was elected to the office of spiritual director of the Greek-Catholic Union in the United States, an organization with a membership which at present (1920) is over 100,000 souls. The duties of this mission required the attendance of Father Jackovics in every State of the union. During this time Father Jackovics also discharged the duties of other responsible offices in the same organization. In the course of these varied and responsible duties pertaining to the management of the Greek-Catholic Union in this country, Father Jackovics acquired a complete knowledge and comprehensive understanding of the spiritual needs and requirements of his people. In 1912 Father Jackovics relinquished the arduous duties of his recent work and decided to make a visit to his native country. During his stay of over four and a half months, he visited numerous cities throughout the central States and provinces of Europe. Immediately upon his return again to this country, on December 24, 1912, he resumed the duties of his charge in the city of Scranton, where he remained actively engaged up to March 4, 1918, when he was delegated to take charge of the congregation of St. Michael's United Greek-Catholic Church in the city of Passaic, where he has since faithfully continued his ministrations of the spiritual welfare of the members of his congregation.

Father Michael Jackovics, before his ordination to the priesthood, married, in the city of Makaria, in the Kingdom of Hungary, Yolanda Kaminsky. Her father, the Rev. Acacius Kaminsky, was an ordained priest of that country, and had also served and ministered the Gospel in United States of America.

Father Michael and Yolanda (Kaminsky) Jackovics had born to them the following children: 1. Thomas M., who at present is a student of medicine at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., having finished at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C. 2. Joseph A., who is at present a student in the New York Uni-





CHURCH

RECTORY

SCHOOL

ST. PETER'S AND PAUL'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH





versity, New York City. 3. Michael N., Jr., who is at present a student at Seton Hall College, South Orange, New Jersey. 4. Yolanda, who is at present a student at Marwood College, Scranton, Pennsylvania. 5. Theodore, a student at St. Nicholas' Parochial School, Passaic, New Jersey.

*SS. Peter and Paul's*—The membership of the SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church in the city of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, is exclusively composed of Russian immigrants and their families who have emigrated to this country from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, having come chiefly from the province of Hungary and Galicia, where they were known as Carpatho-Russians. These families began to emigrate to this country about 1885. They established themselves in the industrial districts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, a large number of them settling in Passaic and Bergen counties, New Jersey, where they readily found employment in the numerous industries.

It was not long before some of the leading men and women of these people realized that they required the spiritual help and comfort afforded by their religious creed under which they had been reared in the Fatherland. In 1890 a number of these men and women organized a parish in the Dundee section of Passaic, where they purchased a church building on First street, on the present site of St. Michael's Greek-Catholic Church.

One year later their rector and two church trustees, without the knowledge or approval of the congregation, subjected their church with its property interests to the Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Newark diocese in New Jersey. This proceeding brought St. Michael's Greek-Catholic Church under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic diocese of Newark, and caused much dissatisfaction and seriously disordered the interests of the parish. A division and separation of the congregation followed. The leaders and advisers of the congregation had, however, decided to adjust the differences of matters upon which they had disagreed, but met with positive opposition from their rector, the Rev. Nicholas Molchany. Disheartened and discouraged by the action of their rector, and realizing that all efforts would be futile to adjust the differences and the dissatisfaction in the congregation, they called a general meeting of the membership and it was there and then resolved to organize a new parish.

This meeting was held March 24, 1902, and as a result of the conference the dissenting members severed their connection from the old organization of St. Michael's Greek-Catholic Church and formed a new organization under the name of SS. Peter and Paul's Greek-Catholic Church, in which Joseph Timko, Joseph Olchovsky, Peter Gladis, Michael Dudaschik, Peter and George Kmetz, Andrew Sidor, John Kiselica, John Kopcho, Michael Buriak, Andrew Cuper, Michael Mandiak, George Pirich, Joseph Tkach, and Joseph Hudak were elected trustees. At this conference they decided to purchase the old Presbyterian church and plot of ground located on Third street, corner of Monroe street, the present site of the SS. Peter and Paul's Greek-Catholic Church.

Immediately following their conference, the new congregation invited the Rev. Vasilius Volosin, a native of and an ordained priest from the Province of Hungary, who was at that time stationed at Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, to assume charge of their newly-formed parish. He accepted the call assumed charge of the new organization, coming to Passaic in April, 1902.

Upon his arrival, the rector and his parishioners at once made the necessary alterations to the old church building, and procured a set of bells for the remodeled edifice. The Reverend Prelate, together with the trustees of the congregation, decided to have the church dedicated, and accordingly, on the thirteenth day of July, 1902, the dedication was duly celebrated by the Rev. K. Lavrishin, of Shenandoah,



Pennsylvania, Rev. A. Kecses, of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, together with the Rev. Volosin, in the presence of a vast multitude of people.

Soon after the dedicatory celebration, Professor John G. Boruch, of Lansford, Pennsylvania, was called to take charge of the choir and parish school. Professor Boruch entered upon the discharge of his duties as instructor and choirmaster in November, 1902. He at once organized a school for children and also established classes for the uneducated adults of the congregation. In this undertaking, Professor Boruch met with most encouraging success, and the result of his work soon became apparent to the rector and the trustees of the church.

Rev. Vasilius Volosin had been in charge of SS. Peter and Paul's Greek-Catholic Church up to July, 1905, without the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese of Newark, New Jersey. He and the trustees directed and controlled the destiny of their church and its members. They had, however, continually applied for recognition and finally, at the end of the third year, they were accepted under the jurisdiction of the Newark Roman Catholic Bishop, but consequent upon this acceptance, the Rev. Vasilius Volosin was compelled to vacate the parish. The Rev. Father Eugene Homiesko succeeded to the rectorship, and he remained in charge up to February, 1909, under the jurisdiction of the bishop of the Newark diocese.

In 1908 there came to this country from abroad, a vicar-bishop for the "Uniat" (the term signifying in union with the church of Rome) Greek-Catholic churches. The vicar-bishop brought with him the "Papal Bull," "Ea-Semper." Inasmuch as the "Bull" violated the terms of the contract of the Union made by Pope Clement VIII., guaranteeing the Eastern rites and privileges to the "Uniates," and again because of the national partisanship of the vicar-bishop, many "Uniat" parishes broke away, renounced the "Uniat" and returned to the Holy Orthodox Church, the church that their ancestors had formerly belonged to up to the period of 1596, and from which church they had been torn by the Jesuits who imposed the "Uniat" upon them by the aid of the Polish and Austrian governments.

Rev. Father Homiesko did not join this movement of the people, and consequently was compelled to leave the parish. He was succeeded by the Rev. John T. Krochmalney, who assumed charge of the parish in February, 1909, as an orthodox priest. He remained in charge of the parish until February 15, 1910.

The SS. Peter and Paul's Greek-Catholic Church, decided to submit to the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox church at a general meeting of the congregation held on February 21, 1910. This meeting of the membership of the church was opened and presided over by the trustees thereof and the Rev. A. A. Hotovitzky, who was temporarily in charge of the church. Joseph Timko acted as the secretary of the meeting. The title of the church was then declared as the Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church of SS. Peter and Paul's, of Passaic, New Jersey. The resolutions of the meeting were approved by Archbishop Platon, on March 6, 1910, and the church became a part of the Aleutian and North American diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Rev. Elias Klopotovskiy had been, upon election by the congregation, and upon the approval of the archbishop, appointed rector of the church in April, 1910. The membership of the parish rapidly increased under the faithful and wise management of the rector, and grew to such proportions that it was found necessary to erect a new church edifice. Designs and plans were at once perfected and the new edifice was erected at the northeast corner of Third and Monroe streets, at an expenditure of about \$100,000.

The Rev. Elias Klopotovskiy was succeeded in August, 1913, by the Rev. Joseph Stephanko, who is the present rector of the parish (1921). Immediately upon assuming the duties of his new charge and ministrations of the congregation of SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church, Rev. Stephanko la-







RECTORY

REV. LEO LEWISCKY

ST. NICHOLAS' GREEK CATHOLIC UKRAINIAN CHURCH





bored earnestly among his parishioners, and brought to the church and all its constituent features a blessing to the people. The congregation is the largest of its creed in this country. It comprises a membership of over 600 families and several hundred single persons, comprising about 2,500 souls. The organization also has several auxiliary associations, among which are the Brotherhood of SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Benevolent Society, organized in 1903, which has a membership of about 550; the St. Vladimir's Brotherhood, organized in 1910, with a membership of about one hundred. There is likewise a Women's Altar Society, and St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Women's Society, the latter organized October 2, 1916, having at present a membership of about 150 women. There is also the First Russian National Protective Association, organized in 1909, which has its club house at Nos. 175-177 Third street.

The parish school, which was originally organized by Professor Boruch, at present (1921) has an attendance of over 350 pupils. The sessions of the school are held between the hours of five and seven in the afternoon, excepting on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The choir of the church consists of fifty members and has attained the reputation of being one of the largest and best Russian choirs in America. It has rendered a number of public concerts and also has attracted the interest and attention of the general public in Passaic, where it has at numerous times been invited to render concerts in other churches and upon public occasions. SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church comprises a rectory and a school building, all situated in close proximity to the church. They also own a fine tract of land devoted to cemetery purposes, comprising eighteen acres of land located in Bergen county, New Jersey. The property value of the church in 1921 represents an approximate amount of over \$400,000.

Rev. Joseph Stephanko, the rector of SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church, was born of Carpatho-Russian parents who had emigrated from their native land and settled in Hudson, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where their son, Joseph, was born, February 29, 1888. Rev. Joseph Stephanko obtained his early educational training in the public school and the parochial school, and next entered the Russian Missionary School at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduation, he was appointed instructor at the Mission School. He next taught school for two years in the city of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, after which he entered the Russian Orthodox Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and after leaving his alma mater, he was ordained to the priesthood of the Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church, February 20, 1911. His first charge was at Berwick, Columbia county, Pennsylvania, where he ministered to the spiritual needs of his congregation for sixteen months. He was next called to Mount Carmel, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, where he ministered to the needs of his congregation up to August, 1913, when he came to Passaic, and assumed charge as rector of the SS. Peter and Paul's Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church, and has continued here up to the present time (1921).

Rev. Joseph Stephanko married, February 8, 1911, Anna Kranyak, of St. Paul, Minnesota, daughter of George and Julia (Sandor) Kranyak.

*St. Nicholas Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church*—During the last fifteen or twenty years many Ukrainian families from the Eastern provinces of the late Empire of Austria emigrated to the United States, locating in the city of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, where they built their homes and reared their families. Soon after settling in this section, the need of a church became apparent, and finally a number of these families decided to form an organization for the purpose of establishing a church of their own faith, where they might have the Gospel preached to them in their native language. Accordingly in 1910, a number of these Ukrainian



settlers, held a meeting to discuss plans for the organization and establishment of a congregation, and at the same time, decided to incorporate the proposed organization under the title of St. Nicholas' Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church. A committee was appointed to investigate and secure a suitable site for a church edifice, and after careful inquiry, four city lots were purchased at a cost of twelve thousand dollars, near the corner of Hope avenue and Van Buren street, in the city of Passaic. On August 7, the same year, it was decided to have suitable plans drawn and upon the approval of the same, contracts were awarded for the erection of the church, the cornerstone being laid February 5, 1910. The dedication of the church was duly solemnized by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Orsynoky, of Philadelphia. The first rector appointed was the Rev. Alexander Prystaeg, who was an ordained priest from the city of Lemberg, province of Galicia, late Empire of Austria, and who ministered to the spiritual needs of his congregation for some time. He was succeeded by the Rev. Elias Kuzio, the successor of whom was Rev. E. Sydoriak, who administered to the divine welfare of his parishioners until Basil Merenko succeeded him. He served until November 1, 1919, at which time the Very Rev. Leo Lewisky became rector and has continued to the present time, 1921. The congregation of the St. Nicholas' Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church from its incorporation has been under the jurisdiction of the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian diocese of Newark, Essex county, New Jersey, which at the present time is presided over by the Very Rev. Peter Pomatoslian, who exercises the power of administration. The Rt. Rev. Bishop S. S. Orsynoky, who died in 1915, had for many years been the official head of the diocese.

The board of trustees of St. Nicholas' Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church are: the Very Reverend Leo Lewisky, Adam Yahckeshak, Gabriel Danczak, and Phillip Kapha, the former being the Chairman of the Board. The membership of St. Nicholas' Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church comprises over four hundred families who have homes in the city of Passaic and the surrounding communities.

The Reverend Leo Lewisky, the present rector, was born in Hungary, province of Galicia, formerly Kingdom of Austria, March 9, 1868. He is the son of Reverend Safron and Anastasia (Celevich) Lewisky. The ancestors of the Lewisky family had for several generations been ordained priests in the province of Galicia. The great-grandfather of Reverend Leo Lewisky, whose given name was Michael, was the first Ukrainian cardinal of the city of Lemberg, in the province of Galicia. The Reverend Leo Lewisky obtained his early education in the schools of his native village. He later attended the high school at Lemberg from whence he entered college and concluded his theological education in the University of Vienna. He was ordained to the priesthood December 25, 1892, in the city of Stanislau by the Right Reverend J. Kuilowsky of the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian diocese of Stanislau, Galicia. Immediately after his ordination, Father Leo Lewisky was stationed at Radovzce, province of Bukowina, diocese of Lemberg where he continued to minister the Gospel during the next nine years. In 1901 he came to the United States and soon after his arrival here, he accepted a charge at Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, where he remained one year. He was then transferred to Minersville, Pennsylvania, where he continued to minister the Gospel in the Greek-Catholic Ukrainian church during the next two years. Thence he was sent to the city of Shenandoah, to St. Michael's Greek-Catholic Ukrainian church where he remained for ten years. After this he accepted a charge in the city of Scranton, Pennsylvania, in St. Vladimir Greek-Catholic Ukrainian church and he was next stationed in the city of Cleveland, Ohio for one year. He next went to Pleasant City, Ohio, to St. Michael's Greek-Catholic Ukrainian Church. In 1919 Reverend Father Leo Lewisky came to Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, where he entered upon his present charge November 1st. Soon after assuming the responsibilities of his charge in Passaic, Father Lewisky inaugurated a campaign for raising funds towards liquidating the church debt, and after a brief period succeeded







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ST. MARIE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SECOND AND MONROE STREETS  
PASSAIC, N. J.



in reducing the debt to the amount of nine thousand dollars. Father Lewisky has introduced a number of new features which have won the approval and appreciation of his parishioners in Passaic. He has organized a band and drum corps of twenty-seven pieces, and an orchestra of twenty-four pieces among his parishioners; a choir comprising fifty trained voices which takes a part in the regular Sunday services. Father Leo Lewisky is the chief consulter of the Newark Greek-Catholic Ukranian church diocese. During the great World War, Reverend Father Leo Lewisky rendered valuable help among his people during the campaign for the Liberty and Victory Loans.

*St. Marie's Slavonian Roman Catholic Church*—Consequent upon the many political disturbances and wars which followed the various revolutions during the latter part of the nineteenth century in the Slovakian countries of Eastern Europe, many of the industrial families from the various provinces of the late Empire of Austro-Hungary left their native land and emigrated to the United States. Many of these Slavonians, upon their arrival in New York City and other nearby ports, immediately sought employment in the industrial centers throughout New Jersey and New York. A large number of these settlers located and established their families in the eastern district, in the city of Passaic, where they readily found employment in the numerous industries located along the banks of the Passaic river. These Slavonian families, having been taught and baptized in the Roman Catholic faith, sought their spiritual comfort in the Roman Catholic churches which had early been established in the city of Passaic, where many of them first attended St. Nicholas' Catholic Church in Jefferson street for a number of years prior to 1890.

The families who had settled in the city of Passaic and the surrounding communities had rapidly increased in numbers, and many of the adult members, who had not acquired a knowledge of the English language, being desirous of hearing the gospel preached in their native tongue, decided to organize and establish a church where Mass would be celebrated and the gospel preached to them in their native language, and, accordingly, a number of the leaders among them organized St. Marie's Congregation on April 1, 1891. The first rector was the Rev. Father Skulik, who assumed charge over the new organization and served Mass and preached to them in the Slavonian language, the congregation at that time being chiefly constituted of Slavonian families from the districts of Sariska, Zemplinska, Abaujska and Spiska. The first services held by the members of this congregation were in the basement of St. Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church, between Columbia avenue and William street. The Mass was served by the Rev. Father Samuel Bella, who had come from his charge in the city of Bayonne, Hudson county, New Jersey. He served Mass and ministered the gospel to these people, and by his energetic, practical methods, rendered valuable help towards establishing the congregation in a church edifice of their own, located at the corner of Second and Monroe streets, where they had secured a site, comprising four city lots, with a frontage of one hundred feet and also one hundred feet deep. Here the congregation, after securing suitable plans, finally succeeded in erecting a frame church edifice, which was completed during the year 1893. Soon after the completion of their first church edifice, Rev. Father Bernard was succeeded by the Rev. Father B. Kviatkofszki, who ministered to the spiritual wants of his parishioners and served Mass up to 1893, when the Rev. Joseph Ligda, a native of and an ordained priest from the late kingdom of Hungary, assumed charge of the little congregation and ministered to the spiritual needs of these people up to 1898, during which year the Rev. Father Sheppard, of St. Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church, assumed the rectorship for some time, when the Rev. John Polyakovics assumed charge of the congregation and ministered to the spiritual welfare of these people. He was succeeded by the Rev. Father Ignatius Yaskovits,





who was later succeeded by the Rev. Emmerick Haitinger, who had come from the late kingdom of Hungary, where he had been educated and was ordained to the priesthood. Father Haitinger, soon after assuming the charge and ministration of the spiritual interests of the congregation, realized the necessity of the rapidly-increasing needs for greater holding capacity for his congregation, and in order that many Slavonian families from the surrounding communities of the city of Passaic might be ministered to in their native tongue, it was finally decided to erect the present attractive modern church edifice at the southwest corner of Second and Monroe streets, and accordingly, in 1901, two committees were appointed and proceeded to secure the financial requirements for the erection of a new and modern church edifice. Plans for the building were promptly executed, and in 1904 ground was broken for the foundations for the present modern church edifice of St. Marie's, and upon the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone, the ceremonies were conducted by the Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Newark, New Jersey.

St. Marie's Slavonian Roman Church edifice, as it now stands at the corner of Second and Monroe streets, is constructed entirely of gray granite, with two lofty towers, facing at the eastern end on Second street. The church edifice proper is noticeable for long distances throughout the city of Passaic. St. Marie's Slavonian Roman Catholic Church was dedicated in the presence of a large and enthusiastic audience by the Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Newark, New Jersey, and a number of distinguished citizens of Passaic, and since that time the present rector, Rev. Emmerick Haitinger, has faithfully ministered to the spiritual needs of the congregation. He has by his untiring and persevering efforts accomplished much towards advancing both the spiritual welfare and the material growth and development of his congregation. Rev. Father Haitinger has also contributed much of his time and thought towards establishing a successful parochial school, immediately adjacent the original site, to which he had removed the first church building, which has since been converted into a school building, being divided into a number of class rooms to facilitate the requirements for the curriculum to be taught by the Sisters, who have their house and convent immediately in the rear of the original site of ground where St. Marie's Slavonian Roman Catholic Church now stands. The attractive and modern brick rectory, which stands immediately adjacent to the church building proper, when completed, made the entire group of buildings notably attractive for their architectural design and simplicity.

St. Marie's Slavonian Roman Catholic Parish, at the beginning of its organization, consisted of about seventy-five to one hundred families. These numbers have since increased, and at the present time, 1921, consists of from twelve to fifteen hundred families of these people, comprising about eight thousand souls.

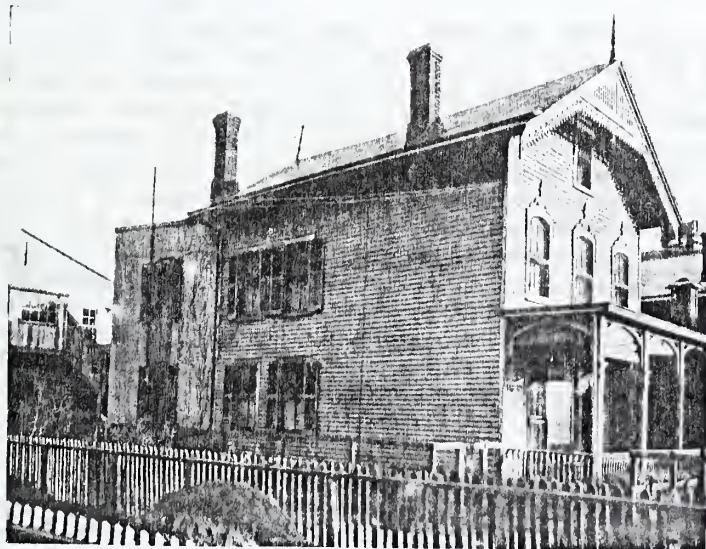
### OTHER RELIGIOUS BODIES

*The Salvation Army* of which the Passaic Corps is one of its auxiliary organizations, is a religious body existing in two forms, namely: The "evangelistic," which is the primary, and the "social," which was made necessary by the evangelistic, and which operates to give permanency to many of its most important results. The Salvation Army was founded by the late General William Booth, in London, England, in July, 1865, and was first known as the Christian Mission; its present name, "The Salvation Army," was adopted in 1878. It derives its name from the fact that it works for the salvation of mankind from all forms of moral, spiritual and temporal distress. Its government is military in form, and its tactics, militant and aggressive.

In this country, the United States, The Salvation Army owes its legal existence to an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, entitled, "An Act to provide







PARISH SCHOOL

CLUB HOUSE

SISTERS' HOUSE  
ST. MARIE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



for the Incorporation of The Salvation Army," Chapter 468, which became a law, April 28, 1899. The Salvation Army is legally entitled to receive bequests for charitable purposes, authorized in Section I, of the Act of Incorporation. The trustees of The Salvation Army are the commander, the chief secretary and the treasurer of The Salvation Army in the United States, ex-officio, with two officers or two lay members of said Army selected by the three first.

The organization makes a special effort once during each year to raise funds for missionary work. This occurs during a "Self-Denial Week." One-half of the money contributed is used solely for the support of foreign missions, and constitutes the only money sent from the United States by The Salvation Army. All other moneys collected are used for the support of its various operations in the United States. All the money received in any form, and all the profit from its business enterprises, can be legally, and is, in fact, devoted only to the maintenance of the religious, charitable, educational and missionary operations of The Salvation Army. The officers and active workers receive a reasonable compensation for services given, an amount which must be clearly stipulated, and varies according to the rank of the officers, not according to the office he holds. No officer, member, or employee, receives, or is legally entitled to any pecuniary profit apart from his salary.

The accounts of the international, national and territorial headquarters are annually audited by a legally authorized auditing company, and every six months the Army's national auditor, and at longer intervals, an international auditor, examines the accounts of the various headquarters. These auditors insist on both the cashiers and bookkeepers producing receipts for every dollar expended, and proofs that the moneys have been expended for the purposes for which they were received. The stubs of the receipt book must show the amount received, and the name and address from whatever source, all moneys came. Unless the foregoing conditions are fulfilled, the auditor will not certify the accounts; neither will they legally sanction a departure from the customary and accredited methods of business procedure in the keeping of accounts. The balance sheets of its international, national, provincial and divisional headquarters are published annually. Every corps or field unit in the United States issues a quarterly balance sheet.

The religious and charitable works in which The Salvation Army engages are many and varied. Always crowded to the limit of its capacity The Salvation Army opens its doors to every human being who may need help. No conditions, creedal, ethical or racial, are made. "Real need is the sole condition." Its motto, "The World for Christ," indicates the chief end toward which it labors. Its motives are everywhere and always religious and spiritual. Its purposes include, the feeding of the hungry, the clothing of the ragged, the housing of the homeless, the cleansing of the unclean. The many forms of social relief effort and their world-wide development make The Salvation Army the strongest and largest single social relief (or charity) organization in the world, yet its fundamental aim is always the same, the bringing of the individual into personal and loving relations with Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer.

The chief form of activity of The Salvation Army is the field, or evangelistic, as it is first in order of time. Each corps or field unit holds its religious meetings in open air and in halls, to which especially the poor, the grossly sinful, the obviously lost, the outcast, the reprobate, the morally impotent are invited. Here the Gospel is preached in diction suited to the simplest of men; here strong spiritual and moral motives are brought to bear directly upon the individual; and personal dealing enforces and makes personal the appeals made from the platform. Immediate decision for Christ is the keynote in all. The field officers also visit the homes of their constituents and others of the poor, and become acquainted at first hand with their needs, their sorrows and their joys.

The slum settlement work radiates in all forms of temporal and spiritual help to





the families of the district. The slum officers have been called "slum angels" by a secular journalist. They visit the sick, and take charge of the affairs of the family when the mother is ill; they care for the babies while the mother works during the day; they wash and launder and scrub and advise and teach and preach and pray and champion the cause of the weak. The slum settlements are lighthouses scattered over a dark and rocky coast.

Rescue Homes are established in the larger cities for the reclamation of fallen women, or to prevent from falling, those who are especially tempted. About eighty-five per cent. of the girls passing through these homes are permanently restored to virtue and many become good Christians. Maternity Hospitals, which, usually connected with the rescue homes, provide competent medical aid near and at the time of confinement. Industrial homes are located in certain centers where homeless and otherwise unemployed men are given temporary work until such time as permanent employment can be secured for them. Similarly also, workingmen's hotels where a poor man may find a clean bed at a merely nominal price in surroundings which make for his moral and spiritual regeneration, and children's homes for the care and training of orphaned or neglected children, are built.

Young women's boarding homes, too, are organized, where girls who labor for a modest salary in factories or department stores may board at a very little cost. They provide for all the social amenities of the family, and avoid the evils of the common, promiscuous boarding-house. Numerous other forms of beneficence and charity such as Christmas dinners, fresh air camps in the country districts, or at the sunny sea side, missing friends bureaus, prison work, providing care for the families of prisoners or for released prisoners, and training schools for young men and women who are trained for officership in The Salvation Army. Varied and numerous other helpful service is rendered in many ways and under varied conditions and circumstances.

The officers of The Salvation Army are men and women, chiefly converts of The Salvation Army, who are possessed of a passion to help and save the world. They have come from all classes of society; from all professions and spheres of activity; from the gutter of the wayside, and from the university, from the slum home, and the mansion. The variety of the activities of The Salvation Army readily finds a place for any type of intellect, or talent, or ability. No rank or office is closed to either man or woman whose Christian character and ability qualify them for the office.

The Passaic Corps of this beneficent and hospitable organization, The Salvation Army, was founded April 11, 1900, by Adjutant and Mrs. Parsons, who had, as a result of their persevering efforts, rendered helpful and merciful service to many persons, who had been overwhelmed by misfortune and sickness. Adjutant Parsons and his wife were succeeded by Ensign Campbell, who prosecuted the good work in Passaic for some time and was himself succeeded by Captain James Yates. At the present time, 1921, Ensign James Graham and his dutiful wife are directing the interests and the work of the Passaic Corps.

Immediately after the organization of the Passaic Corps of the Salvation Army, the first meeting was held in a small room in the upper story of Berdan's Furniture store, in Main avenue, where the organization continued to meet for some time, when they removed their quarters to Main avenue and Garden street, where they continued to meet and hold their gatherings up to 1915. During this year The Salvation Army erected a permanent building in Bloomfield avenue where they regularly met and had their executive offices until April, 1921, at which time the premises at No. 226 Washington place was purchased by the order for the sum of \$14,000. The building on this site was altered and converted for the various uses of the Corps to meet, so as to facilitate the executive offices, as well as the requirements of the different departments of their work, and, at the present time, 1921, the building affords all the re-



quirements for the executive department, and all other accessory features for their meetings and services.

James Graham, the present ensign of the Passaic Corps, was born in Carlisle, Cumberland county, England, March 31, 1876. His parents were Robert and Mary (Millican) Graham, the former was of Scotch ancestry, and the latter, of English ancestry. Ensign James Graham received his early educational advantages in the schools of the neighborhood where his parents resided. During his early boyhood he attended the Sunday schools and was reared to the doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which both his parents were consistent members.

In 1896 Ensign James Graham joined The Salvation Army at Wallsend, county of Northumberland, and entered its training college in the city of London. Upon completing his training, he was assigned to the Sixth Corps of Liverpool, England, in the capacity of an assistant, and in this position rendered faithful service for some time. He next assumed the charge of various posts of The Salvation Army located at Rochdale, Blackburn and Manchester, England. While at the latter place, he was advanced to the position of superintendent of the insurance department of The Salvation Army, the duties of which office he faithfully discharged for a period of over seven years. In 1913, Ensign James Graham was appointed by The Salvation Army leaders, to New York City, United States, and soon after his arrival here, assisted Colonel William McIntyre with whom he faithfully labored for some time. He was then sent to Glens Falls, New York, Indianapolis, Indiana and Newark, New Jersey. Having labored at each of the aforementioned cities faithfully in the performance of his duties until May, 1919, he was next appointed to Passaic, New Jersey, where he has since faithfully discharged the responsible duties of ensign of Passaic Corps of The Salvation Army, and has rendered faithful and efficient service to the organization.

Ensign James Graham married October 26, 1913, Lieutenant Lucy Pilkington in Pendleton city hall, in the outskirts of Manchester, England, where she was born February 2, 1882. She is the daughter of Henry and Mary (Dean) Pilkington. They have one daughter, Gladys Lucy, born in Glens Falls, New York, April 2, 1915.



## CHAPTER LIV.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Passaic Lodge 542*—The Loyal Order of Moose is an international fraternal society, consisting of more than sixteen hundred lodges in the United States, Canada, and throughout the English-speaking world, having an aggregate membership of more than five hundred thousand men. Most of the Lodges of the Loyal Order of Moose, provide for sick benefits and funeral expense funds for their members. Each Lodge is a complete unit in itself with full local autonomy. As a means for the better accomplishing their purpose, the Lodges have organized a central agency called the "Supreme Lodge of the World, Loyal Order of Moose," with headquarters at Mooseheart, Illinois, where all the general activities of the order are centralized, and the supreme officers in active charge have their offices.

Mooseheart is a unique institution, and has an estate of one thousand, fifteen acres of land, situated thirty-five miles west from Chicago on the Fox river, between the cities of Aurora and Batavia, Illinois. The title to this estate is vested in the Supreme Lodge of the World, Loyal Order of Moose. This institution provides both a home and vocational training school for over seven hundred children of deceased members of the Order. The residential part of Mooseheart, resembles a modern village of about one thousand inhabitants, and consists of about fifty buildings of modern concrete fire-proof construction, with red tile roofs. There is a central heating and power plant, large modern printing shop, a high school building, several industrial shops, a modern farm plant with all its accessories, and many dormitories and residences. The educational features of this institution are highly vocational and practical. About twenty-five of the most useful crafts, including agriculture, are being operated as a part of the education work.

The children at Mooseheart, are organized as one large happy family, an aggregation of children who know each other, like each other, work and play, and live a common life. The children are admitted from birth, in some instances the mother, whose husband has passed away, has gone to Mooseheart and given birth to her child. These children remain at Mooseheart until they receive a high school education and trade, before they go out into the world. An extraordinary feature in the management and direction of the welfare of these children is the unique fact that none are placed in the control of strangers, and the families are there kept together until after their graduation. Every child must graduate in some trade or vocation. During their period of incumbency in the institution, every child has a bank account in the "Students' Bank," operated solely for the education and instruction of the students, and all bills are paid by check. The children are governed by the laws of the assembly, a self-governing body of which each student is a member. The actions of the assembly are guided and supervised by the superintendent of the institution. Every child has the opportunity for musical education whether in the forty piece junior band, the fifty piece senior band, the fifty piece orchestra, or various choral and glee clubs. Another unique feature in the institution, in order to more or less prepare for the democracy of the world, is that the children are trained in self-government, in debating societies, and on the athletic fields for mental and physical leadership, not forgetting, however, the gymnasium of the potato field, and the corn field. The play-grounds are thoroughly equipped and supervised, to develop the girls and boys through games and play, into strong, healthy and vigorous womanhood and manhood. All the sources of food supply are under the direction of a scientific dietitian, the food and nourishment is well-balanced, meals provided in appetizing manner, and in such variety that

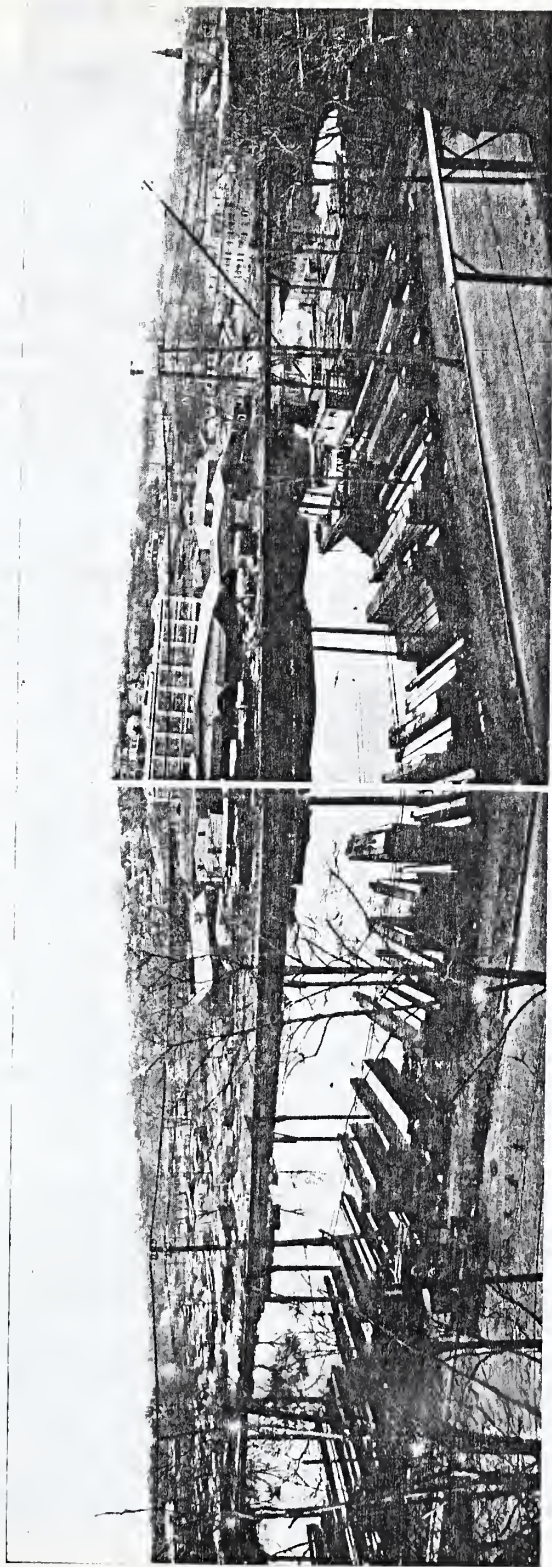




the children can never plan for a certain food for a certain day, thus avoiding "bean day" on Wednesdays, and "mush day" on Fridays. Strict attention is given to patriotism and the duties and qualifications of citizenship. One unique fact in particular, in which Mooseheart differs from nearly all other institutions in the world, is the success in training, the development and government of the children, notwithstanding the fact that there are nearly one thousand children housed in one beautiful village of small family groups. Each group has its table, kitchen and family life. In its prospective development it is a city of five thousand children, living on five thousand acres of the Illinois prairie, containing a beautiful lake, bordered by the Fox river and the Lincoln highway. During the recent World War, the Government selected Mooseheart as one of the institutions capable of training its soldiers and two groups of about one hundred and ten soldiers each, including officers, were trained in concrete construction work at Mooseheart. The United States Government has sent, up to the present time, 1920, nearly one hundred disabled soldiers, to be trained in several different trades taught there. These soldiers were wounded in battle, and so disabled that they were unable to follow their previous occupation. They are now being trained at Mooseheart at the various trades and in some instances are better fitted and better satisfied with their portion in life than ever before. This wonderful and beneficent institution, Mooseheart, is now building a House of God in which the Protestant, the Catholic, the Jew and all other denominations will worship according to their several understandings. Mooseheart also has a publication known as "Mooseheart Weekly" in which is printed the activities of the student body from week to week. Another unique feature of this singular institution, is the fact that during their spare hours, the children are encouraged to work, usually doing the light tasks which deal with their particular vocational training, and are paid for this work. The money thus earned is credited to their bank balance, and they are permitted to draw on their accounts by check. Corporal punishment is unknown and is not tolerated at Mooseheart. If a child is found guilty of misdemeanor, sufficiently serious to warrant punishment, he or she is reprimanded and denied some of the pleasures for a specific length of time, according to the nature of the misdemeanor. There is a general department store where each family can purchase its groceries, meats and other necessities. When the children are in need of new clothing, they are allowed to select it themselves at the department store, and are thus trained in the selection and purchase of their wearing apparel. The students at Mooseheart are not uniformed. The teachers are selected and employed according to their training and experience in a certain subject or vocation which they teach. They are not in any way, and do not perform any of the duties of proctors or matrons of the institution. Certain members of the order have subscribed to a Revolving Fund for the benefit of those students who desire to continue their education by availing themselves of a college or university course, after they have completed the course and been trained at Mooseheart. The money is loaned to these students out of the Revolving Fund and paid back at the convenience of the student. This great and beneficent institution correctly sums up its purposes and expectations in the phrase which has been adopted as a motto of the institution, "Mooseheart, the School That Trains for Life." This institution is chiefly maintained by an annual contribution of \$2 from each of the six hundred thousand members throughout the civilized world.

The membership of Passaic Lodge No. 542, Loyal Order of Moose, in the city of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, is chiefly made up of residents of the city and the surrounding communities. The object and purpose of the Lodge is to afford mutual fraternization and social protection to its members. The Lodge was organized on March 28, 1911, with a constitution and by-laws subject to the parental Order of Moose in the city of Mooseheart, Illinois. The first officers of Passaic Lodge No. 542, were: John Kennell, dictator; John J. Hogan, vice-dictator; William J. Orr,





SHIPPING AND RECEIVING WHARVES AND YARDS  
ANDERSON LUMBER CO.





prelate; Edward H. Smith, secretary; Joseph Kestler, treasurer; George Rettinger, sergeant-at-arms; Sandor Weiss, inside guard; Henry Hubschmith, outside guard; Julius Rebentisch, Otto Kessler, Edward Fogarty, trustees; Dr. C. Vander Clock and Dr. L. C. Corbin, physicians.

Immediately following the organization of the Lodge, the membership rapidly increased in numbers under the prudent and practical management of its officers and has prospered almost beyond the most sanguine expectations of its founders. At the present time, 1921, the Passaic Lodge No. 542, Loyal Order of Moose, owns and occupies the building at Nos. 15-19 River drive, in the city of Passaic, which has recently been remodelled and in which has been installed many modern features of convenience and comfort for its members. It also has a large and commodious auditorium and ballroom under the same roof of the lodge building. At the present time, Passaic lodge No. 542 Loyal Order of Moose has an active membership of over seven hundred and fifty, the largest fraternal society in Passaic. Its membership comprises many of Passaic's leading and representative business men.

The present officers (1921) are: past dictator, Francis C. Cogan; dictator, Peter J. Plavier; vice-dictator, Richard J. Tatham; prelate, George Gelsingier; secretary, William E. King; treasurer, James B. Greeley; sergeant-at-arms, Daniel Harrigan; inner guard, John P. Williams; outer guard, George D. Keane; trustees, William Kirkland, William Johnson, Michael Connelly; physician, Dr. Joseph F. A. Rubacky.

William E. King, secretary of Passaic Lodge No. 542, Loyal Order of Moose, was born in the town of Passaic, Passaic county, New Jersey, March 3, 1887. His early educational training was acquired in the public schools of his native city. He next pursued a course of commercial study in the Passaic high school and graduated with his class, June 23, 1903. He became identified with the New York Belting and Packing Company, in the capacity of production manager, the responsibilities of which position he has faithfully discharged up to the present time, 1921. He has also been active in other directions and for a number of years has filled the office of treasurer of the Mutual Loan and Building Association of the city of Passaic. In his fraternal activities it can be correctly stated that Mr. King has given much of his time in advancing the interests of Passaic Lodge No. 542, Loyal Order of Moose, during the past ten years of his membership. The Passaic Lodge No. 542, Loyal Order of Moose, has become recognized as the leading fraternal society of the city of Passaic.

*The Anderson Lumber Company*—Passaic, New Jersey, the home of The Anderson Lumber Company during the last 110 years, has advanced and prospered to such a degree that it has become universally recognized as one of the leading and enterprising cities of the present day in Northern New Jersey, and The Anderson Lumber Company, one of the oldest concerns of its kind, has become inseparably associated with the advancement of the community, and a bulwark in the industrial development of the State.

The Anderson Lumber Company was founded on the banks of the Passaic river in 1812, when Passaic was the chief landing place for river transportation in Northern New Jersey. Many industries in the lumber and building materials line have since been started in Passaic and the surrounding communities, and among them all The Anderson Lumber Company has always stood out prominently as the largest lumber dealer in the Passaic Valley.

In 1812 the present Anderson Lumber Company was founded by Brom Ackerman, who was succeeded by Richard Morrell and John A. Post, under the firm name of Morrell & Post. This firm met with immediate success and their business grew rapidly. Morrell & Post were later succeeded by Peter Jackson, David Anderson and his two sons, William S., and John D.; later W. S. Anderson became associated with Simeon T. Zabriskie and formed a partnership with him known as William S. Anderson & Company. This firm name was successfully continued up to 1887, when the



interests of the firm were incorporated under the present name of The Anderson Lumber Company, with Benjamin B. Ayerigg as president, and Simeon T. Zabriskie as secretary and treasurer. In 1890 Mr. Benjamin B. Ayerigg disposed of his interest in the company to Simeon T. Zabriskie, who became president in Mr. Ayerigg's place. Edward Phillips, a prominent lumberman from Albany, New York, became connected with the company as secretary and treasurer at the same time. The personnel of the company continued, with Mr. Zabriskie as president, and Mr. Phillips as secretary and treasurer until 1899, when Mr. Phillips retired and John D. Suffern took his place as secretary and treasurer, Mr. Zabriskie still continuing as president. There were no changes in the management of the company from this time until January 1, 1915, when Mr. Zabriskie disposed of all his interests to John D. Suffern and Alfred E. Jelleme, who served as president and secretary and treasurer, respectively, until January 1, 1919, when Mr. Jelleme, associated with George E. Loveland, took over Mr. Suffern's interests and the personnel of the officers was again changed, Mr. Jelleme being president and Mr. Loveland, secretary and treasurer, these two being the officers of the company at the present time (1922).

During the great World War, from 1914 to 1918, The Anderson Lumber Company directed their energies and resources to the task of helping to subjugate the influences of the Teutonic nations by their prompt services in the delivery of lumber by means of auto trucks at the time when rail congestion made it impossible to deliver by steam transportation. The company sent its great trucks long distances during all sorts of weather, and thereby assisted the undertakings of our government in expediting their building and other facilities at their embarkation depots and other points. For their promptness and efficiency of service during the period of the great World War, The Anderson Lumber Company was awarded a certificate of "recognition for distinguished and efficient service."

When peace was restored, The Anderson Lumber Company again began to do its share in the great task of reconstruction, and elaborate improvements that involved the outlay of thousands of dollars have been recently completed, the company having fully equipped itself for supplying any of the numerous requirements of the building and construction industry in the line of lumber, and the numerous finished products which The Anderson Lumber Company have enabled themselves to manufacture and supply.

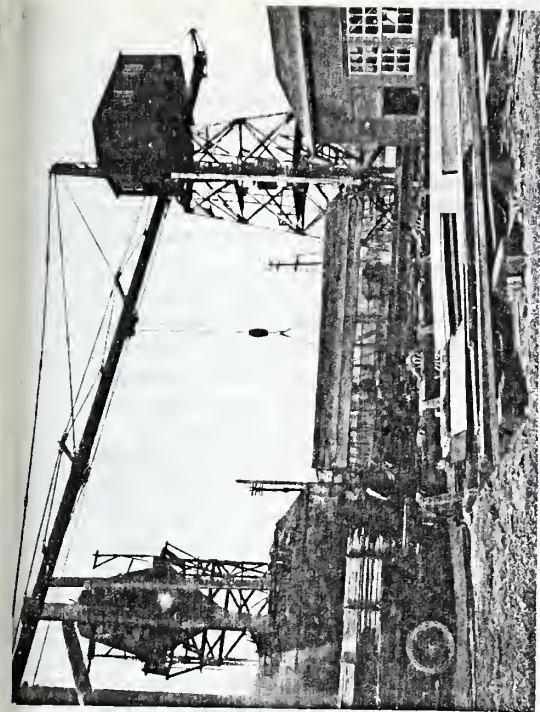
Numerous improvements in various departments of the plant have been recently inaugurated. The president of the corporation engaged experts in every line, carefully selecting the machinery and equipment for every department, and accepted all suggestions for improvements to make the factory and equipment of the company at Passaic second to none in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Jelleme is an ardent believer in the utilization of motor-driven apparatus for delivery purposes. Aside from shipments by rail and water, The Anderson Lumber Company's activities cover the country for a radius of over fifty miles with motor trucks. Long hauls are successfully handled and it has become a common expression of the head of the firm that no order undergoes delay for lack of a motor-driven vehicle to carry and transport the same.

Should anyone endeavor to point out the greatest improvement recently made in the Passaic plant, they would, perhaps, after a few hours spent in going over the grounds, designate the gigantic cranes installed for the purpose of handling large timbers. During the earlier days of the activities of the firm, it required six or seven men to handle a 12x12-20 foot piece of timber, and took fifteen or twenty minutes; now, one man operating a crane swings six to eight such pieces of timber at one time in about two minutes, thereby emphasizing the efficiency and expedition enunciated by Mr. Jelleme, in other words expressing their motto: "Efficiency, service and economy."

A ten-ton locomotive crane, with 60 foot boom, having a radius of 120 feet, has







ANDERSON LUMBER CO  
SECTIONAL VIEWS OF THE PLANT





recently been installed and can be driven under its own power on rails to any point through the yard, picking up huge pieces of lumber and placing them on trucks or railroad cars, or piling them in storage with a facility with which a child might place so many match sticks. Another five-ton stationary crane, with a radius of 120 feet, handles timber in and out of their planing mill and saves much man power. In the heavy timber-working department, The Anderson Lumber Company operates three large band timber saws, one of which has a capacity of 60,000 feet a day, being 75-horsepower, electrically driven. Another feature of the equipment of this department is a battery of five timber planers. One of these planers is adapted to dress timbers on all four sides up to the size of 16x24. There is also an electric monorail crane covering 700 feet of dock frontage on the Passaic river in use at the plant, which is employed chiefly in loading and unloading large timbers from vessels and railroad cars and storing same.

In addition to the aforementioned departments of this great lumber industry of The Anderson Lumber Company, they have finished the installation of one of the most modern electrically-driven woodworking plants in this section of the country. The firm handles a large stock of kiln dried lumber and is especially well equipped to manufacture all classes of special millwork, such as window frames, sash, doors, mantels, cabinet work, trim, moldings, and wood-turning of all descriptions. The cabinet department of The Anderson Lumber Company is equipped with the latest improved types of veneer presses, clamps, sanding machines, etc. Their kilns are the latest improved Emerson type, with a capacity of 60,000 feet.

An estimating and drafting force is at the disposal of the customers of The Anderson Lumber Company and is at all times ready to take off quantities from plans and specifications, furnishing complete estimates promptly. This department offers co-operation with the prospective customer in all kinds of cabinet and millwork and has specialists whose only duty is to show visitors to the plant and the various intricacies of its manifold equipment. These mills and yards, as described, cover many acres on both banks of the Passaic river where there are located suitable sheds for the housing of the finer grades of lumber.

This narration, referring to the numerous details of the plant of The Anderson Lumber Company, would not be complete without a brief reference to its power plant of over 600 horsepower capacity. Fuel for power is chiefly derived from shavings and waste wood blocks, which are shredded by a hog machine, and together, with the shavings, are blown through pipes and are fed to the boilers by mechanical stokers. A large collector-separator and screen separates the sawdust from the shavings, thus saving it for a more practical purpose.

The accompanying illustrations tell the whole story at a glance of the foregoing narrative paragraphs, and lend emphasis to demonstrate the magnitude and sphere of usefulness of this mammoth plant of The Anderson Lumber Company in the city of Passaic.

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While this is the end of the History of Passaic, it would not be complete without the history of Clifton and her suburbs (which follows), because, for nearly two centuries both were included in the old *Township of Acquackanonk*, by which name both were known; Passaic, until 1869, and Clifton, until 1917. How well the story has been told, time will reveal, and while others could have written it better, the editor has the satisfaction of having stated *facts*, which will ever form the foundation for a better history of the editor's beloved city, Passaic, and Clifton, too, written by someone more capable than the present writer.



Since the above was written, the attention of the editor has been called to the fact that the graduating class (1922) of the Passaic High School presented Principal Arnold with sufficient money to purchase a set of the "History of Passaic and Its Environs" for the use of the school. While this act indicates the faith that these young people have in the editor to produce a history worthy of a place in the school library, it is the wish of the editor that the work may be found helpful to them and future pupils in acquiring a better and fuller knowledge of their home town.





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CLIFTON—GARFIELD—LODI—WALLINGTON

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## CHAPTER I.

### CLIFTON.

Until April 26, 1917, when it was made a city, Clifton was included within and retained the name of township of Acquackanonk, the remains of which make the new city. Its ancient history down to 1917 is the same as that of Passaic down to 1869, when the village of Passaic was set off.

The township of Acquackanonk was formed in 1693 and included "All the land on the Pasayk River, above the Third River, and from the mouth of said Third River, northwest to the Partition line of the Province, including also all the land in New Barbados Neck, betwixt Hackensack and Passaic Rivers, and thence to the partition line of the Province." In 1709 the boundaries were modified so as to take in all land bounded on the south by the present northerly line of Essex county, west by Morris county, north and east by Passaic river, from which have been created the townships of Little Falls, and the cities of Paterson and Passaic, the latter occupying a position in the centre of Clifton, which appears like a capital letter "E." Essex county, created in 1682, included Clifton. By an act of the Legislature of February 7, 1837, all that part of that county, including Clifton, was set off into the county of Passaic. By act of April 26, 1917, the mayor and Common Council of Clifton was created; changed May 5, 1917 to city of Clifton.

Clifton is about twelve miles from the New York city hall. Is bounded on the north by the city of Paterson; on the east by Passaic river; on the south by Essex county, and on the west by Little Falls; and is traversed by the Erie, Paterson & Newark and Lackawanna railroads, two trolley lines, one through Main and the other through Lake View avenues; Morris canal (unused), and Dundee (a water power) canal. The river is not navigable within her borders.

Immediately after the settling here by the Dutch, 1684, portions of the old township were laid out and given the names of divisions, which were: (1) Boght (or bend) Division, including all land bordering the Passaic river in that section of Paterson known as Riverside; (2) Gotum (or Gotham, in English), after Gotum in Holland, included all land north of Monroe street, Passaic, between Weasel road and the river; (3) Weasel Division, including all land lying between Kulik street on the south, and Market street, Paterson, on the north, Weasel road on the east and the mountain on the west; (4) Acquackanonk Division, included all land not embraced in the three other divisions. For many years the community around and about the present corner of Ackerman and Lexington avenues was referred to in speech and writings as "Gotham," where was considerable of a settlement, with school, tavern, store and black smith shop. Above that was Weasel proper, the most thickly settled portion of which was around and about the shore of our Dundee lake.

The city of Clifton, next to Jersey City and Newark, has a larger area than any city in the State, and eventually other cities will be carved therefrom, or a portion annexed to the city of Passaic, which partly separates the northerly from the southerly section. Within its limits are well defined and well known localities, which existed and were known by certain names applied to nearly all for two centuries and over.

These distinct localities were: (1) Weasel; both sides Weasel road from the city of Passaic to the city of Paterson; part was Gotum. (2) Notch; at the foot of the mountain, including Albion place, which is of modern date. (3) Centreville; the vegetable farms, around the old tavern at Clifton avenue and



the canal. (4) Claverack, now Athenia. (5) Speertown, now Allwood or Somerset. (6) The Reef, or Yantacaw, or Delawanna. (7) Clifton proper, within a half mile circle of the post office.

The one having the greatest interest because of the part it took in the Colonial, Revolutionary, and subsequent periods, is Weasel—a name applied to it probably between 1685 and 1690.

Because of these scattered localities or suburbs, it is difficult to present a connected history of the whole city, for while all were, to be sure, in the same old township, they were so scattered that each acted independently of the others, in everything but government. Each had its church, school (and some of them), fire and police departments, and acted clannishly in all civic matters. In addition to this, a majority of these suburbs were simply farming communities, and as such pursued the even tenor of their ways, doing nothing in particular to make history. However, in order to present a fair account and description of the entire city, mention will be made of each.

In an historical account of the city of Clifton, published in the "Clifton Times" in December, 1917, all portions of the city are ignored excepting that locality having for its centre the post office, while Albion place, the Notch, Richfield, Claverack, Allwood, Delawanna were not even referred to.

To start at the earliest point of its history, it is necessary to commence with the Indians who, so far as known, were the first settlers of that locality, and while they spread themselves over the entire State, there were certain localities of more importance and prominence than others. Among these was (as it became) the township of Acquackanonk, which possessed a chief's village, where laws were made and councils of leading officers of many tribes were held. In addition, appeals for relief from the arbitrary action of the heads of tribes or rulers of villages, and for assistance in many ways, were heard here. This particular village was about the corner of Wall and Seventh streets, Passaic, and its jurisdiction extended over what is now the city of Clifton. From this village a path led along the river northerly to Pompton, and southerly to Newark. Just below the Dundee dam was the greatest fishing place in the river, for the Indians, who built a number of stone dams, in the centre of which was an opening through which the fish were forced to pass, and where large numbers were caught. Many of these dams were in existence until recent years. Remnants of some may still be seen. For many years after the coming of the white man, who in this locality were Hollanders, these dams were used as the Indians had used them.

Although the Passaic river in the olden time had a greater volume of water which flowed with greater speed and was wider below Dundee dam than it is to-day, no bridge spanned it within the limits of Clifton, but it was crossed by a ford about 500 feet north of Ackerman avenue. On the Clifton side of the river it met a road leading northerly passing over and through where now are the water gates of and the mouth to the Dundee canal, whence it continued northwesterly along the river to Weasel road. This, of course, was previous to the erection of the Dundee dam; about 800 feet north of which was an island across which there came to be used a path, as a short cut across the river, requiring a boat on either side of the island. This was found to require too much time and labor, whereupon efforts were made to construct bridges over the streams on each side of the island by the respective counties. But opposition killed the project. This was before Dundee lake was formed, and while the river was a narrow and shallow stream.

*Weasel*—The name Weasel (a corruption of Wesel, Holland) is coterminous with the first settlement of this region by the Hollanders, in 1684, and was applied to: Weasel brook, which still flows in all its purity through the







OLDEST GRAVESTONE IN THE GRAVEYARD  
GERRIT GERRITSE





cities of Clifton and Passaic; to Weasel mountain, northwest of Passaic; to Weasel road, now Prospect street, Lexington avenue and Dundee drive; to Weasel drift way (now Crooks avenue); to Weasel Division of the patent of Acquackanonk, which included all the land on the west side of the present Lexington avenue north of Clifton avenue, extending northerly to the Passaic river, and continuing along the same to Market street, Paterson. Its westerly boundary was Weasel mountain. For many years the bridge crossing the old brook on Weasel road, just north of the Passaic city line, was known as the Weasel bridge, and so referred to in records a century and more ago. The present Weasel bridge, Market street, Paterson, took that title when the road was laid from Paterson to Hackensack, about 1852. A vessel named "Weasel" operated between Passaic and New York in 1818. The writer has copies of several letters dated at Weasel, written between 1756 and 1800.

The first man of any prominence hereabouts to settle at Weasel was Gerrit Gerritse, who died there and was buried in the Old First Cemetery, Passaic. His tombstone, an old red sandstone, bears the inscription: "January 1, 1737. G. G. over Leden." He owned about 1,300 feet of land fronting the present Dundee lake, extending back to the mountain. His old homestead plot is now occupied by a house built by the late Mr. Scotto C. Nash. During Garritse's time there was no lake—only the river, and a shallow stream at that, in the centre of which was the island above referred to opposite Garritse's house. In the Revolution, Garritse's house and barns were pillaged by the enemy soldiers, who succeeded in carrying away considerable property. A. Burnaby, an Englishman who visited this country in 1757, and travelled over the Weasel road, publishing a history of his travels, says, on page 75, "This is a rich country, interspersed with fine fields and gentlemen's seats." Botta, the Italian historian, in his history of the American Revolution, was so impressed with the well cultivated fields that he does not hesitate to call this the "Garden Spot of America."

The Weasel road is mentioned in the proclamation of Governor Belcher of June 2, 1756, declaring that for the protection of the friendly Delaware Indians, certain inland territory had been set apart to and for their use; which territory, the proclamation states, "is three miles back from the Great Road that leads from Newark, through Weasel, to the Great Falls."

It seems a pity that this old name could not have been retained, particularly to the road, which, during the formative and preservative periods of our country, was known as Weasel, and well known, too. Perhaps it is not too late for the city of Clifton to pass an ordinance fixing Weasel as its legal name.

And this leads one to speak of meaningless names applied to certain localities in the city of Clifton; foremost of which is Athenia. This name passes understanding. The place bears no resemblance to ancient or United States Athens, nor was it ever connected with Athene, the Greek goddess. No one of that name ever resided in the neighborhood, which for more than a century had been called and known as Claverack, under which it was reposing contentedly, and, as every one thought, safely, until Centreville was substituted, which was again changed to Athenia—about as appropriate as Paradise Plains or Jerusalem.

Claverack had been bestowed by the first Holland settlers, and like all their names had a meaning, which in this instance meant "clover field." If this community must have a name other than Clifton, by all means let it be the euphaneous, sweet smelling one of the old clover field—Claverack, which still clings to the road running through the place.

Burhan's lane is an imposter, and only recently took that name from a man who owned land in the neighborhood. The former name, the one applied by





the first settlers, was "Dwas," a corruption of Dwarslijn, signifying division line. In 1685, when this region was first settled, farms were laid out in two tiers. The first tier extended from the river back to this lane, and the second from the lane to the mountain. For about two hundred years Dwas lane was good enough and, because it has a significance and is one of the fast disappearing monuments of the early Dutch settlers, it should be retained, and, if necessary, this name should be applied to it by legal measures.

Hazel street, a continuation of Dwas lane, is another name of more recent application. The name applied by the first settlers, or patentees, was Patentee's lane, as also was Crooks's avenue. When Governor Dickerson resided there in 1824 Patentee's lane was good enough for him. An old district school and poor farm were located on Patentee's lane. Originally, this lane was used to reach the farm land, near the mountain. Because this name was applied by the pioneers of this section, and because it has an instructive meaning, Patentee's lane, should be substituted for Hazel, after Hazel Kirke, a famous actress some years ago.

Dwarslijn, shortened to Dwas (meaning division line), was the name given by the Dutch to an old road still in existence, partly in Clifton and partly in Passaic. The portion in Passaic has been known as Albion street, of which it is the continuation, or nearly so. To the members of the Passaic Monday Afternoon Club, it seemed proper that the Dutch name should be retained for the entire road, and in May, 1922, petitioned Passaic's commissioners to eliminate Albion street and adopt Dwas Line road, which will be done. To the honor of Clifton, she has retained and will retain the Dutch name for that portion lying within her borders, and it is hoped that her Monday or other club will protect and preserve these old names full of meaning.

From the old township, Acquackanonk, there were taken the cities of Paterson and Passaic and township of Little Falls, years before Clifton asserted her right to appropriate what was left of the township created in 1693, in order to form her city, so that to-day the old township, as such, does not exist, and the old name used so often and for more than two centuries passes into oblivion and 'twill not be long before the places that knew it so long will know it no more. It is a sad commentary on the acts of her children that not one of them has preserved that name in a park, street or public building, passing it by as if it had never been. It is to be hoped, however, that future generations with more sentiment and a greater regard for what is proper will restore the name to public uses.

While Paterson and Passaic made the conditions that forced their formation into cities, viz.: the creation of water power and establishing large industries, Clifton did not do this, but the need of favorable locations for Passaic's industries compelled the stepping over of her geographical limits into the township, and these industries drew thousands of operatives there. For the same reason thousands of clerks and business men of Passaic located in the old township. Passaic had the misfortune of outgrowing her swaddling clothes early in life and failed to get material for a larger suit, which resulted in the building up of Clifton at her own expense, albeit she is proud of her lusty progeny.

Clifton is unique in that the names of her first white settlers and their doings have never been reduced to writing and published. Neither has any succinct connected account of their acts and results been preserved; or, in other words, she has no written history.

If a faithful record of the first settlement and subsequent growth and progress of Clifton is not preserved and handed down to posterity, her inhabitants now, and their children after them, would be a people without a history, save



such as tradition in its uncertain, romantic and fabled forms should transmit to future generations. She owes it then not only to herself, but to the whole American family, and especially to those who are bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh, descendants or relatives of those hardy men who settled within her borders and laid the foundation for a city of which to-day one may feel proud to write, and with great care and strict impartiality preserve of Clifton not only her Colonial history, but all that relates to her Revolutionary struggles enacted within her borders under the direction and with the assistance of men who at all times were willing to lay themselves as sacrifice, if need be, on the altar of Liberty. Such men should not, and must not, be forgotten. To forget them would be dishonorable and shameful.

Such a history should be dear not alone to the descendants of these men (no matter where they now live) who will never forget the land of their fathers and their children to the latest generation, but later settlers should be proud to say: "We hail from noble, generous, enlightened and patriotic Clifton, the leading city of little Jersey."

This is the impulse that inspires the editor to at least lay the foundation for a history of Clifton, upon which a more competent builder may rear a structure that shall reflect upon the city the honor and credit which is her due.

In the absence of records and data, such as is possessed by every New England hamlet, the task of ascertaining much of the required information has been slow and arduous, to obtain which no effort was spared by the editor, who no doubt failed to discover much which, it is his hope, others may be encouraged to preserve and, in time, deliver to a future historian of the city.

In detailing the history of Clifton in its entirety, the histories of the localities first settled will be given, commencing with Gotum, Gotham and Weasel, followed by the other sections.

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## CHAPTER II.

### GOTHAM AND WEASEL DIVISIONS OF THE PATENT OF ACQUACKANONK.

For a particular account of the early Indian deed, and the patent of Acquackanonk, for a big tract of land, which included Clifton, the reader is referred to this History of Passaic, where will also be found the names of the fourteen men, called patentees, who became the owners.

Previous to making an allotment of lots (farms) among themselves, the land was separated into four sections or divisions, which were called, respectively: Bogt (or Bend) Division, which is included in a portion of the city of Paterson; Gotam Division, Weasel Division, and Acquackanonk Division. Each division contained as many lots as there were patentees. Hardly two were alike in size or contour, while values did not always equal the equation, resulting either from location or quality of the soil. For this reason some were entitled to more lots than others. The basis of the first allotment was two lots for each man. Maps or diagrams were made of these divisions, which are referred to in old writings, but, unfortunately, those of Weasel and Acquackanonk are not in existence. It is possible, however, to construct them by following references to the locations and numbers of the lots appearing in old documents.

Because Clifton is made up of parts of all but the Bogt Division, it becomes necessary to speak of the other three.

*Gotam (Gotham)*—The accompanying map is a copy of the original map in possession of the editor, supposed to have been made 200 years ago, yellow





with age, but well preserved. Of the lots shown thereon, parts of lots 4 and 7, and all of 5, 6, 8 and 9, are in Clifton, whose southerly limit is the prolongation of the line between lots 9 and 10 from the easterly side of old Weasel road (now Lexington avenue) over lots 4 and 7 to the Passaic river. Parker avenue forms the easterly boundaries of lots 4, 5 and 6, and the westerly line of a portion of lot 7. The northerly line of lot 6 was about 200 feet north of Highland avenue of the present day. The northerly line of lot 8 is still in existence, nearly midway between the present Kulick street and East Madison avenue, while its westerly boundary was the old Van Wagoner farm. The line between lots 9 and 10 marks the division line between the cities of Passaic and Clifton.

The name (Gotham) was given by Elias Vreeland after a little hamlet in Holland, nearly the birthplace of his family.

Washington Irving, while on a pleasure jaunt through this part of the country, stopped at the residence of Jacob E. Vreeland, from whom he learned much of the customs of the early Dutch—more than, as he afterwards said, he had ever heard of, and of which he made good use in writing his famous Knickerbocker history of New York, wherein he makes use of the word "Gotham," and endeavors to invest New Yorkers with the virtues of the (then) inhabitants of Clifton and their predecessors, who had inaugurated customs, styles and traits brought from Holland and which were thought worthy of emulation by others.

The name Gotham applied to the greater part of Passaic's fourth ward, and parts of Clifton's second and fourth wards, and embraced all land lying north of Monroe street, between Weasel road and the river. The reason of the application of the name remains a mystery. It was applied to the old map about 200 years ago. Some writers say the word comes from Goth, one of an ancient tribe of barbarians who overran the Roman Empire, and means a rude, ignorant person. Gotham-ist, a wiseacre: a person deficient in wisdom—so called from Gotham in Nottinghamshire, noted for some pleasant blunders.

Irving had visited old Acquackanonk in the last century, and having heard the name was possibly impressed with it, for we find him making use of it in 1807, in his "Salmagundi," wherein he says, speaking of residents of New York. "A most insidious and pestilent dance called the waltz \* \* \* was a potent auxiliary, for by it were the heads of the simple Gothamites most seriously turned." The word as applied to the locality by the patentees was not used in the sense that Irving used it; as it is not likely that any people would care to make themselves ridiculous by assuming an odious name. "Irving succeeded in creating a distinct literary type out of the Dutch burgher, whose phlegm had long been an object of ridicule to the Americans." He used the word contemptuously, for anything barbarous.

It is the opinion of the writer, however, that the place was named Gothan, after a town in Germany, formerly capital of the old duchy of Gotha, and now the residence of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg. Gotha is situate on a canal of the Leina, and on the Thuringian railway, six miles north of the Thuringian forest. This seems more probable, when it is considered that the early settlers who came here from Holland and Germany should apply old country names to their new towns here. Gothland: land of the Goth.

In the division of this Gotham land, Adryon Post became the owner (his name appearing thereon) of lot No. 4. This was what for the last half century has been known as the Marsh farm. Theodore B. Marsh was at the head and real owner of the United States Express Company. He was a bachelor and possessed peculiarities which stood out prominently in many of his transactions. He loved horses, and kept on hand at all times from six to a dozen full-blooded stock. By his will he set aside a sum of money, the income from





which was to support the animals so long as they or the last one lived in a new stable, fully equipped with every needed appliance. His wishes were carried out, taking more than eighteen years before the last horse died.

After Adryon Post's death, Thomas Post became owner of the farm. Upon the Weasel brook running through the farm, he established a grist mill, which was located near the corner of the present Highland and Hope avenues in the present city of Clifton. As a business centre this locality became well known. Post was followed by John Van Winkle, after whom Van Winkle avenue received its name, who continued the business. Robert McCandless had a noted distillery to which a road was laid from the Weasel road and which, as the records say, was "to remain open forever." This was a century ago. [By the way, as this was being written, a lawyer from Morristown wrote asking the editor if that road was still in existence]. The road now forms parts of Lake and Highland avenues. It was never vacated. After McCandless' death, fire destroyed the mill. In due time James Rennie and his brother Robert erected a mill and engaged in bleaching, for which purpose the brook water possessed just the right qualities. At the end of three years they vacated and went to Lodi, where they were very successful. They were followed by a Frenchman, who manufactured optical instruments, but failed when a fire destroyed all his property. During Civil Wars days hoop skirts were made here in a new mill erected for that purpose. When hoop skirts were no longer fashionable, this business came to an end, and a flood destroyed the factory, which was never rebuilt.

That portion of this lot or farm fronting Weasel road between Highland avenue and the brook came to the possession of Henry Garritse and his son, John H., who erected a stone house and barns thereon and raised live stock. After their day the property changed hands very often until acquired by Henry V. Butler, a wealthy Patersonian, who erected modern stables and conducted a stud farm, whereon some famous horses were born and bred or trained. The great panic of 1873 ruined him, his property was sold—this farm eventually to speculators by whom it was divided into lots and sold. Jacques Wolf Company's mills are located upon this lot.

Lot 5 was drawn by Symon Jacobse (or Jacobsen), equivalent to Symon, Jacob's son, and, as was the custom before family names were common, he added "se" or "sen" (meaning son) to his father's Christian name (he having no surname), and adopted that as his surname. He had twelve children, of whom the two eldest sons retained Jacobse, while the remaining nine adopted Van Winkler (corrupted into Van Winkle) as a surname, Van meaning from, and Winkler, shopkeeper, numbers of such of this family having become famous in Holland previous to this time. This family became noted for numerous progeny. Simon Van Winkle, his oldest son, had a brood of twenty, the initials of whose names and dates of birth he cut on his stone door posts, ten on each.

Symon outlived all of the patentees and claimed in consequence to be the owner of all unsold and undivided lands in the patent. As a matter of fact, he was wrong in his construction of the quality of estate conveyed by that instrument, by which it is seen after careful reading that an estate, not of joint tenancy, but of tenancy in common, was conveyed to each patentee. However, Symon acted on his construction of the patent, and in the latter years of his life assumed to convey to his four sons all unsold and unallotted or undivided land in the patent, which, while never contested, was not the construction of the heirs of deceased patentees, who claimed to own the share of their respective ancestors.

Symon erected no building upon this lot, which he conveyed to his sons, by



whom it was sold to Jacob E. Vreeland, who divided it and devised one portion to his son and the other portion to a daughter, the wife of Dr. John Garritse, who resided where now is Robertsford, Garfield. With the exception of lot 4, the Vreelands came to be owners of all of the Gotham Division lying within the present city of Clifton.

During Colonial and Revolutionary War days there was a settlement of several homesteads in this vicinity, which was known as Weasel Bridge, taking the name from the bridge on the old road (then Weasel road), now Lexington avenue), which crossed what was then and to-day is Weasel brook, then a much larger stream and of greater importance than it is now. In later years there was a noted stud farm here, conducted on a large scale, and where some of the most noted horses were born and raised, or born, or raised.

The next lot, No. 6, extending along Weasel road from near Van Cleeve avenue to 100 feet south of South avenue, was drawn by Elias Vreeland, from whom it passed to his two sons, Michael and Jacob. During the Revolution a portion north of it was owned by Stephen Basset, who erected his home thereon, as well as a tanning mill, for he was a tanner. The house, an ordinary stone, Dutch style, stood at the present southeast corner of East Clifton avenue and Lexington avenue, while the mill, partly of stone and frame, was in the rear of the present building, where Mity Fine Bread Bakery now stands. In those days a brook of considerable size and volume ran across the property, which besides furnishing power to operate the mill, was of the required purity of water used in the process of good tanning.

Stephen Basset, who is credited with having been the founder of the first manufacturing establishment in this vicinity, was a direct descendant of the Basset family, which had its origin in the town of Basset, in Normandy, and was prominent in the famous battle of Hastings, fought back in 1066, in the European civil war of 1264, and in later wars not only in Europe, but those of our own country—the Revolution, Mexican and Civil wars. Members of this family came to this country in 1661, having sailed from England, November 10, in the brig "Fortune," landing at New York. Among them was the father of our Stephen, then a mere lad, who with his parents settled on Long Island.

Stephen Basset was born at Flushing, December 31, 1706. His education was limited, and at an early age he was apprentice to Henry Simmons, a tanner. Soon after the term of his apprenticeship had expired he engaged in business for himself at the corner of Pearl and Queen streets, in the present city of New York, where he conducted also a tap room or tavern. One of his nieces having married Peter Simmons and removed from Flushing to what was then called Weasel, in a stone house which stood at the present southwest corner of Dundee avenue and Dundee drive, Clifton, he followed with the intention of continuing the business of a tanner. He first located on a small brook, which may still be seen flowing from beyond the Erie railroad to the river near Dundee avenue. From here he went to East Clifton avenue. He also had a tannery on a brook of pure spring water which flowed across Central avenue, at its junction with Lexington avenue, Passaic, where he thrived. He died January 4, 1763. His tombstone may be seen in the graveyard of the "Old First" Church, Passaic. By his will, his wife and Peter Simmons were appointed executors. An angry dispute between them in July, 1773, left her in passion and led her to publish a notice in the "New York Journal" of July 29: "Whereas, Mr. Peter Simmons of Wessel was left an executor for the estate of Stephen Basset of Wessel aforesaid in the Province of New Jersey. This is, therefore, to forewarn all Persons from paying any Debts belonging to said Estate to said Peter Simmons, as they will answer the same at their peril. Ann Basset, Executrix."





Peter Simmons, born in England, May 29, 1728, came to this country and settled in Flushing, New York, about the time he reached full age, where on July 20, 1756, he was married to Rachel Kip. He was a seafaring man, captain of the ship "Henry IV." As he was away from home most of the time, he and his wife did not keep house, but lived with the family of her uncle, Stephen Basset, for many years. Simmons was home only at the end of a voyage from across the Atlantic. His last trip from New York was made in June, 1787. When his ship reached the English channel, a fierce storm was encountered, during which on July 5, 1787, he was washed overboard and drowned. His body was never recovered. He left fourteen children, one of whom, Peter, Jr., married Margaret Westervelt. They had a son, Henry P., who became a county judge, acquired much land in and became a noted character throughout the cities of the county of Passaic.

Stephen Basset's daughter Maria became the wife of Rev. Marinus Schoonmaker, who became the pastor of the Reformed church of Harlem, about the time that his brother Henricus became pastor of the present "Old First" of Passaic, June 27, 1761. Henricus owned and occupied for many years, until he sold it in 1797, a farm of 100 acres overlooking the present Dundee lake. Basset was an ancestor of Allen Lee Basset, the first president of the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

Stephen Basset was a native of Flushing, New York, whence he came to Acquackanonk about 1725, purchased this property, and started in business. He was married by the minister, Rev. Henricus Coens, at the parsonage of the "Low Dutch Reformed Congregation at Acquackanonk," July 4, 1730, to Ann Millidge, "both living in Essex county, in the Province of New Jersey," according to the records. They had several children, among them Nancy, who became the wife of Nicholas (Claes) Vreeland, who was part owner of lot No. 6 of the Weasel Division. After Basset's death the tannery was abandoned, and for a number of years was used as a grist mill. Later a store was conducted in a frame building which stood on East Clifton avenue.

The following is a copy of a marriage bond given by Nicholas Vreeland when he married Nancy Basset. Similar bonds were required for many years in all cases:

Know all men by these presents, That We, Nicholas Vreelandt, of the County of Bergen and Province of New Jersey, & Michael Vreelandt, of Essex County & Province af<sup>d</sup>, are holden and do stand justly indebted unto his Excellency Thomas Boone, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Governor-in-Chief of New Jersey af<sup>d</sup>, in the sum of Five Hundred Pounds, of current lawful Money of *New Jersey* to be paid to his said Excellency, Thomas Boone, Esq<sup>r</sup>, his Successors or Assigns; For which Payment well and truly, to be made and done, We do bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, and every of them, jointly & severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our Seals; dated this Second Day of December, Annoque Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty.

The condition of this Obligation is such, That whereas the above bounden Nicholas Vreelandt hath obtained License of Marriage for himself of the one Party, and for Nancy Bassett, of Essex County af<sup>d</sup>, of the other Party; Now, if it shall not hereafter appear that they, the said Nicholas Vreelandt & Nancy Bassett, have any lawful Let or Impediment, of Pre-Contract, Affinity or Consanguinity, to hinder their being joined in the Holy Bands of Matrimony, and afterward their living together as Man and Wife; then this Obligation to be void, or else to stand and remain in full Force and Virtue.

his  
NICHOLAS X VREELANDT.  
mark  
MICHAEL VREELANDT.

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of Lewis Ogden.

Lot 7 included the land between Lexington avenue and the river, north of lot 6, as well as that between Parker avenue and that stream from the Dundee dam to Sherman street, Passaic. It contained 138 acres, and became the prop-



erty of Elias Vreeland. This was the greatest of Indian cornfields, upon which was raised their best crops, for which the soil and exposure to sun and rain, and its ability, both to hold and shed rain water seemed specially adapted. It is the only lot still retaining the name applied by the Indians, and that was Maize-field. This land lay beside the reef, and in connection with lot 6 was spoken of by the Dutch as the Reef lot, and, in fact, the reef was so often referred to that it became attached to the name of Jacob Vreeland, who resided on the bank of the river in a house erected by his father (the above named John) about 800 feet below Dundee dam. Jacob not only was called but signed his name Jacob Van der Reft (Jacob, from the reef). Just above the present Ackerman avenue bridge along the river were the homes of Casparus Van Riper and Garret Vreeland, who were noted fisherman doing nothing but fish; while near them, living in a hut built in the side of a hill, was Jeremiah Van der Hill (from the Hill), who lived the life of a hunter of ducks, other wild water fowl, muskrats and other game. Further south on the top of the hill, near President street, was an Indian burying ground, where the chief men (officers) of tribes were buried. As late as 1898, in making excavation for the Botany Mills, bones were exhumed. In 1833 the Dundee Manufacturing Company acquired part of this maize field or reef farm, erected the first dam to be called Dundee dam, and soon after constructed a water power canal from the dam southerly to President street, from which the same was not continued through Passaic until a quarter century later. Along this canal two mills were erected, using its water for power purposes for several years, when fire destroyed them, and they were never rebuilt. The Forstmann & Huffmann and the Botany Worsted mills are erected upon this Indian maize field.

Lot No. 8, which adjoined lot No. 14 of the Weasel Division, was allotted to John Vreeland. The southerly line was the brook. Lot No. 9 became the property of Henry Garritse. These two lots eventually were owned by Mary Garritse, who during life, and her heirs thereafter, conveyed portions of the same to various persons, including Pitkin & Holdsworth Company for a mill, and the city of Passaic, which expects to create thereon a public park known as Fourth Ward Park. The Erie railway crosses these last two lots.

As a distinct and separate community, Weasel was recognized in the early days of its settlement not only hereabouts, but in the other colonies; even faraway Boston, in her "Post Boy" of August 6, 1744, says: "We hear from Weselen in East Jersey that the Barn of Jurri Alse took Fire by the Lightning and was burnt down to the Ground in 10 or 12 minutes; the Barn was full of Wheat." This barn stood on the northerly border of Passaic, 400 feet west of Lexington avenue, and a Dutch stone farm house stood near the northwest corner of Highland and Lexington avenue, being the mansion house connected with an eighty-acre farm having a frontage of about 660 feet along the old road.

Right here is an illustration of the custom of the Dutch in using patronymics instead of surnames, and a lawyer would be unable to trace the early title without understanding the rule governing early patronymics. In the chain of title there appeared a will of Cornelis Aeltse, devising this farm with the barn and house to his son, Jurri Aeltse, but there was no deed to Cornelis. How did he get it? This led to the study of family names, which divulged the fact that Cornelis Aeltse was the son of Aelt Van Riper, who by his will had devised it to his son Cornelis, who adopted as a family name, in keeping with a prevailing custom, Aeltse—the son of Aelt.

*Weasel*—Weasel takes its name from Wesel, a town of Rhenish Prussie, adjoining Holland, at the junction of the Lippe with the Rhine, and formed the bulwark of Prussia, on its northwestern border. The town has always





carried on extensive commerce with Holland. During the Reformation in Holland many Protestants fled to Wesel, which formed an asylum for them. The name Weasel was here applied by the Wessel family, who came here from Holland in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

The Weasel Division patent extended from the present city of Passaic to the Weasel bridge, Paterson, on the westerly side of Weasel road. As stated above, the editor has never seen nor been able to ascertain if there is in existence the original or copy of the map showing this division, but from references made thereto by private papers and public records, it has become possible to reconstruct the same. This included all land between Lexington avenue and the same continued northerly and along the river on the east, and the Weasel mountain on the west, Market street, Paterson, on the north, and to within 100 feet of Kulick street on the south and Van Wagoner farm on the southwest. The lots or farms numbered 14, as in the Gotham Division. No. 1 was at Market street, Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were within the present city of Paterson, No. 4 running along the northerly side of Crooks avenue, commencing on the northerly line of the city. No. 5 was the first of these farms lying within the present city of Clifton.

While the side lines of the farms extended from the river to mountain, they did not continue straight. Only numbers 13 and 14 were straight. From the river to the center line of Burhan's lane (and that line continued south-westerly to the Van Wagoner farm), the side lines were straight. This Burhan's lane line, and continuation thereof was (in Dutch), the Dwarsslijn, meaning division (corrupted into Dwas) line. At this point the side lines took a different course to correspond with the Van Wagoner line, thereby more nearly to equalize the divisions, and to present a right-angle front to the mountain instead of a more acute one. This lane was found useful in reaching inland fields, and was part of an original plan of laying out lanes for agricultural conveniences of the owners of land and not as public roads.

Crooks avenue, as now known, was laid out at the time of this division, and at first designated Patentee's lane, over which the farmers might reach the fields in the rear, near the mountain. It is the oldest lane of its kind in the county; also called Driftway.

This lot 5 was allotted to the patentee, John Hendrickson Speer, who, in 1709, conveyed the same to one of his sons, Hendrickson Speer, for, as the deed states, "divers good causes and considerations me thereunto moving, but more particularly for and in consideration of one hundred and fifty pounds money of New York, to me paid by my son Hendrick Johnson Speer." Conveys: "One equal eighth and twentieth part of the land and meadow in and the belonging to the bounds and limits of the Acquackanonk Patent, as well that part thereof which lyeth undivided, as that which is already allotted and improved, a certain tract whereof is situated, lying and being at a place called and known by the name of Wissell, containing 100 acres upland, English measure. Bounded south with Simon Van Winkle; east upon a highway; north with an outlet between Cornelius Doremus and said land, west by unsurveyed land." The deed is dated January 31, in the "seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady, Anne, over England, Ireland, Scotland, &c., Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c."

Hendrick erected his home, a stone house, upon the bank of the river, which was then a narrow, shallow stream, distant perhaps 500 feet from the present road, which then ran along the river. The house still stands covered by the water of Dundee lake. Portions of the old farm were sold from time to time, but the old house and about three acres of land were retained until 1853, and then sold. John H. Post, Revolutionary War hero, became owner of part of





this farm, and was living on the same the day he went to Passaic, then Acquackanonk Bridge (1776), and assisted in the destruction of the bridge, as related elsewhere in this work.

The Barbour Thread Mills and Mace's Hotel are located on this tract, which includes the highest and most beautiful portion of the Lake View section of the city, the development and beautifying of which was done by Lake View Heights Association, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Arthur S. Hughes, its agent. It is a high-class restricted neighborhood.

The next, or lot No. 6, was allotted to the aforementioned patentee, Symon Van Winkle, who as hereinafter mentioned conveyed this and other property to his four sons, three of whom conveyed their interests therein to their brother Jacob, who erected a saw and grist mill, to operate which he utilized the water of a brook (now Lake View brook) that formed a pond, where now are ice houses. He erected his homestead on the river bank, which was then some hundreds of feet from the present Dundee drive, about 1725, when he was forty-five years of age. Here he lived until his death, in April, 1750, not only operating his mills and cultivating his large farm, but operating a store near his house. He was born in Communipaw, 1678, came here when a boy, and joined the (now) Old First Church (Passaic) in 1726. He married (first) Jacomyntje Matthews Van Nieuwkerk, on April 21, 1701; (second) Catharine Beckling, November 24, 1734. In his will, dated March 28, 1750, proved May 9, 1750, he appoints his wife Catharine, his brother Marinus and Samuel Bayard, Jr., of New York, his executors, directing them to sell all his estate in three weeks after his death. He died April 30, 1750, but the contemplated sale did not take place until six weeks thereafter, as appears from the following notice:

To be sold at public vendue on Thursday the 7th day of June, next, at the dwelling house of the late Jacob Van Winkle, deceased, at Weasel precinct of Acquackanong, County of Essex, East New Jersey. A dwelling house and barn with two allotments of land adjoining to each other, containing about 194 acres, with a good orchard, allowed to be the best lots in Acquackanong Patent, and lying upon the main country road from Newark to the Highlands: the most part being cleared, and extraordinary good tillable and pasture land, well watered. The remainder well wooded, sufficient for the maintaining of fence, and the support of firewood and other uses of said farm. Situated very pleasantly upon the Pasayck River and about 2½ miles from the Acquackanong Church and Landing.

There is also 3 or 4 grist mills and as many saw mills within about 1½ miles of said farm. The title for said land is good and undisputable. Also, at the same time and place, will be sold horses, cows, sheep and oxen, and all sorts of utensils for farming, a Dutch Waggon, and Turner's Tools, and several sorts of Household Goods, &c. Conditions of sale may be seen at the time and place of Vendue. The Vendue to begin at ten O'clock in afternoon and continue the next Day or Days following, until ended.

MARINUS VAN WINKLE,  
KATHARINE VAN WINKLE,  
Executors.

At this sale, which was the most important up to that time, being largely attended by farmers from many miles away, this old homestead was sold to John Van Winkle, for \$3,000, which was considered big money and a very good price.

This farm seems to have been the centre of all activities for more than a century after the first settlements in this vicinity.

From John Van Winkle the farm passed to Michael Vreeland, one of at least four Michaels who then resided within the limits of the present Clifton. This Michael was well known as a most peculiar man, having peculiarities that attracted attention because he insisted in forcing them upon the public in private as well as in the newspapers of the day. It is said of him that he was every where and "poked his nose" in everything. Everybody seemed to know



and pay attention to him. The style and character of the man may be learned by what follows.

Commencing in 1746 and continuing for two years, and waged by the best brains in the country, on both sides, there was great agitation in this county (Essex) occasioned by the rescuing from the jail at Newark of certain persons who had been arrested because of their attitude in the litigation then taking place between those who had acquired deeds from the Indians only, and those who had acquired deeds for the same property from the board of proprietors. The fight was bitter, in the carrying on of which committees were appointed, and to which Vreeland refers in the following letter, parts of which are here given, spellings included, to show that the writer was a Dutchman. The letter is written to his friend, John Low, referred to in the former letter, and who had just been elected to the Assembly, but was then in Boston, where he had gone to take a sloop load of pig iron and hoop poles:

Deer Frindt,

Neer Wesel, Sept. 12, 1747.

Yure leeving dis provins, at de time wen out Assembla was to meat, has gifen me, and de rest of yure Broders, de Cummittie of de Rioters, grate uneaseness; aldo yure departer at dat time, was by de united advise of de Cummittie, shudging as ye wel know, dat we or rader our Instremants de Clubshentlemans, had cummitted so manie wikked Riots, in open defians of de law and atority, dat de legisleise powers woud no longer suffer de offendars to go unpunished, and dat it woud be de peculare besiness of dis Sessions, to punish some of de shief of dem, and put a stop to oder Riots; warefore de Cummittie wid yureself, taut it most consistent wid goed pollyce, for yu to be absant wen a Law for dat end should pass; so dat yu mite say yu had no hand in it, and had yu ben presant, it mite hafe ben oderwise; and amny such oder excuses mite be offered in yure faver, to safe yure bacon and secure yure Interast wid de comon peepol, in oder Elecshons; dis being wat we always aimed at from de first of dese Riots; and dis skeme we taut woud be swallowed by de shentlemens of de Club, widout ane murmurings or hard tauts of you; but I do assure you, mine frindt, his had like to hafe proofed fatal to all ovr long concerted skemes; being oftin told by several of de Clubmans, dat dey now found you was guilty of de greatest Ingratitude, and date yure views were not as yu hafe oftin told dem, to serve der Intrest, but youre own; dat you hafe had yure turn serf by gitting der fotes at de Elecshons for Assemblyman, and derby hafe, and will get more dan £200, but now wen dey only wanted your fote and interest in de assembla (which yu often told dem was verie grate) yu quitted der caus, and yure dutie, and laft dem and der caus widout an advocaer in de assembla; and dat for de futer you must not expect der favors: I told dem, yure business cald yu abroad, and dey aut to excuse you; dey answered, yure business was as yu had declared, only de selling of a small Cargo of a littel Slupe and yu mite, as before, consigned it to sum person, or sent yure Son to sell the same, and not made dat de pretence of forsaking yure frindts, in de greatest difficulty dat did, or posably may ever happin; wich day said was so vile and base a tretement of yure frindts, dat day could not forgife you; wat dey said I taut had so much reeson and trute in it, dat I could not tink of ane ting to keep up dat spirit under de peepol, necessary to continue dem our funder tools. Tings appeering dus bad wid de Clubmans, and our Gouverneur by his Answers to be adresses made him, and his Speech to de assembla appeering strong against us, I gafe all over for lost, until meating de good fader of de Cummittie, and of de Committie, and of de Clubmans, Mr. T—r, de Rev. autor of de several papers rit in favor of de Rioters, dis good Preest, who has gained grate numbers to oppose all law and government, at once taut of an expedient for the abowe diffeculty, to wit, dat he woud draw a Petition, satting fort in general terms, dat de petitioners ware oppressed by de proprietors, and dat seftral of de offices in dis provins were gifen or sold to mans of de leest merrit, and dat mans best qualified for de same ware slited, and dat wat dey had dun was only to hafe der grevanses redressed; and den to pray or rader to insist, dat der crimes, if ane, be passed over wit impunity, and day should be quieted in de enjoyment of all der Indians purchased lands, until de Majesty's plasure be nown, wen dey shoud tink to apply for de same; and dat such mans be put into offices as ovr Cummittee taink best qualified to promote our publick good; and dat de petition be sant truout dis Provins, to be sined by as many as can be got: Our preest obserfed, dat a grate number sining de petition, will not only be a means of keeping up de spirit we once raised among the frindts, some in expecteshon of hating grate tracts of landt, and oders of hating cumisions, but also will strike a terror to de powers of Government, so as to make dem cum into our measers. I was so plected mid dese tings as to call a meating of de Cummittie and dey agreed wid our preest; so de petition is drawn, and by de grate industry used, is sined by sum hundred alredy; neder de old nor de yung, de Clubmans nor dose not of de Clubmans, dose who pretend to rite to landt, nor dose who do not, are rejected, but all dat can be perswaded sign it: Dis skeem goes on very well: for I dont now





hear won wordt reflecting on yu for departing dis provins and leefing yure frindts and der caus, as yu did, be de hole discourse is to get as manie as posable to sine said petition, and of wat grate sarvis yu will be in presanting and making Speeches to de Assembla on dis as you was on der toder petition, and make de assembla belefe, as you said yu did before, dat de petitioners are grately oppressed, widout suffering any inquiry into der Grevanses: For yu kno, dat wont bare inquiry, and dat dere is not abofe won in twenty of de Rioters dat are seteled on landt by dem purchased of de Indians; besides, dat will gife de Proprietors an oppurtunity of profing dat dey hafe taken no oder steps against us but as de law directs and how on our complaining of our not being abel of careying on many lawshutes, de offered to shoin issue in won only, and to gife der Bond wid security to prosecute it here and before de King in Counsel; and dey will also profe, dat de establishing de Indian Titel, and destroying de Proprieteurs Titel, will be unhinging and defeeting almost all de Estates in dis as well as de oder provinces in America; and will prooffe also, dat upwards of 200 persons are settled on Proprieturs Titel only in Morris County, on landt cheefly clamed by us and our Cummittie, on Indian Titel; and will also discover de late Indian purches of a large tract of landt of 15 miles squear, made too yars past, by yu, some oders of de Cummittie and our good Preest of de Club. Warfore, deer frindt, I tink yure presans at de Assembla will be necessary to prefent an inquiry into said Grevanses, and also to sekure an intrest wid de Gouverneur, so as to hafe yurself and yure frindts put into proper offices, and I hope you will hasten home for dose purposes. I hafe only won ting more to ad, dat is to tell yu, dat de former Letter cuming to you in mine naem, was not from mine onc self, but dis you may be sure from de style and nown facts by yu, cums from yure sincere Frindt, &c.

M. VAN FREELANDT.

In 1747 New Jersey troops were named the Jersey Blues, because of their blue uniforms, in honor to whom Governor Howell subsequently wrote a song entitled "Jersey Blues," which became popular. These troops were among those engaged in the invasion of Canada as noted below.

#### JERSEY BLUES.

To arms once more our hero cries,  
Sedition lives and order dies,  
To peace and ease then bid adieu,  
And dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.  
Dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue,  
Jersey Blue, Jersey Blue  
And dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.

Since proud Ambition rears its head,  
And murders rage, and discords sprcad,  
To save from spoil the virtuous fcw,  
Dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.

Rous'd at the call, with magic sound  
The drums and trumpets circle round  
As soon the corps their route pursuc,—  
So dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.

Unstain'd with crimes, unus'd to fear,  
In deep array our youths appear,  
And fly to crush the rebel crew,  
Or die in the mountains, Jersey Blue.

Tho' tears bedew the maidens' cheeks,  
And storms hang round the mountains bleak,  
'Tis glory calls, to love adieu,  
Then dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.

Should foul misrule and party rage  
With law and liberty cngage,  
Push home your steel, you'll soon re-view  
Your native plains, brave Jersey Blue.  
Jersey Blue, Jersey Blue,  
And dash to the mountains, Jersey Blue.

During the French war in 1747, the Province of New Jersey had sent a force of 500 men to Canada, whose supplies and accoutrements were furnished



by a committee of twelve men, selected for that purpose. Upon reaching Albany, one of the soldiers wrote home here to a friend complaining of their muskets, which he said were very poor, and of their food, "every bit of meat rotten." In a letter headed: "From My House near Wesel, Feby 28, 1747," he speaks very sarcastically of the actions of the commissioners, the majority of whom, being Quakers, had no intention of furnishing muskets that would kill, and that the commissioners who furnished the beef, taking it from their own stock, which they had been unable to sell, or even to preserve, because of the scarcity of salt, would have been foolish if they had neglected to sell it to the Colony. One of the commissioners was John Low, who had a store at the present No. 157 River drive, Passaic, a friend of Vreeland, who made frequent visits to him, with whom or his son, the next time either calls, he promises to discuss the matter, and if he finds himself wrong, he promises to make the necessary correction, but as he never did, it is safe to presume that no correction was necessary.

Vreeland was an unlettered man, unable to speak or write correctly, either in Dutch or English, but this letter, faultless in diction and spelling, leads to the conclusion that it was written by James Billington, who boarded with Vreeland during the time he had charge of the district school at Weasel, located on the present Clifton avenue, near Lexington avenue. Sometimes, and in the absence of the schoolmaster, he composed and wrote letters, which were printed as written by himself, of which the one set forth above is a sample, wherein the ability and accomplishment of the man along literary lines may be judged as well as that of his logical power.

Michael Vreeland left a will dated November 4, 1750, which begins:

In the name of God, Amen! I, Michael Vreeland, of the Precinct of Acquackanong, in the county of Essex and Eastern Division of the Province of New Jersey, yeoman, being very sick and weak of Body, but in perfect mind and memory (blessed be God therefor), and calling to mind the mortality of my Body, and knowing it is appointed for all men to dye, Do make and ordain this, my last Will and Testament.

First and principally, recommending my Immortal Spirit into the hands of my Great Creator, trusting in the Merits of my blessed Saviour, for pardon and remission of my sins, and an happy admission in the Region of bliss and Immortality.

He gives to his eldest son George, "for divers Causes to myself best known, the sum of five shillings for his Progeniture or birthright." With the exception of £35 to be divided among the seven children of a deceased daughter Margaret, he gives all his lands, cattle, horses, money and three negro wenches called Young Betty, Old Betty and Mary to his youngest and favorite child Michael.

A century ago there was laid out a lane or road leading from Dundee drive to the river, along the division line between lots 5 and 6. On the corner of the lane and avenue was cooperage shop of John Van Vachter. At the river end of the lane was the paint shop and house of Jacob Stagg. Between the two was the carpenter shop and residence of Adrian Hopper. On another corner was a house, which was turned into a store, while across the avenue Peter Tice resided in a fine house which adjoined that of Cornelius Westervelt. Previous to this, Garret Vreeland had a saw and grist mill, and also a distillery on the river bank, by the side of a brook, which now forms a pond on the west side of the avenue. In this house lived Stephen Basset, whose daughter Nancy married Nicholas Vreeland. Subsequently Peter Simmons and his son James resided here until the house was covered by the waters of Dundee lake. James had a harness and shoe shop here. There was a smithy along the avenue near the brook. There were other houses, mills, and shops here, making of it the most thickly populated settlement, with more places of





business than any other in the present county, outside of Acquackanonk Landing (Passaic).

For nearly a century it has been known as the Simmons farm, men of that name conducting an ice business there. There was a dam across the river about on the line of Crooks avenue, extended, for the purpose of collecting the water above it, from which it was conducted through a trunk to an over-shot wheel that furnished the power to operate two large cotton mills. The construction of Dundee dam and the overflowing of many acres of land, now forming a great lake, virtually killed the village. Mills, houses, barns, stores and shops were obliterated, and scarcely a vestige remains of the place. The river road that ran along the river was overflowed and a new one laid, which now passes Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

The next, or lot No. 7, for very many years known as the Alyea farm, seems to have been drawn by Jurian Thomasse, *i. e.*, Uriah, son of Thomas, from Rypen, in North Jutland, who came to this country from Holland in April, 1663, in the ship "T' Bonte Koe," "The Spotted Cow," with eighty-seven others, men, women and youth. He settled at Bergen, now Jersey City, where he purchased no property, but reserved that for Acquackanonk, to which he came shortly after 1679. In addition to this farm he also was allotted other land, and in addition purchased in the city of Passaic all land between Van Houten and Brook avenues. In the Belmont section of Garfield he owned 100 acres. It is unknown where he resided, but indications point to No. 302 River drive, Passaic, as his residence. For many years this farm at Clifton was the most attractive place along the river, during the time of its ownership by Thomas R. Agnew and Edward T. Christianson, the latter a rich New York tea merchant, who created the lake, embellishing it with trees, shrubs, flowers and palms, in and among which beautiful water fowl glided most gracefully. A handsome boat house adorned its bank, large enough to house several fine row boats and a steam launch. At night Chinese lighted lanterns made a fairy-like scene. But its beauty departed many years ago, no attempt being made to beautify the place now used as an ordinary road house. The next two lots, Nos. 8 and 9, were allotted to Hans Dederick, who came to this country from Isleven, Holland, about 1660. He settled at Bergen (Jersey City), where he married Grietje, widow of Adrien Hendrick Zips. He was constable and also lieutenant of militia, and later lieutenant of a foot company, besides holding several civil commissions. It is supposed, from the fact of his not owning any real estate in Jersey City, that he erected his home upon this tract shortly after 1679, where he was living undoubtedly in 1684, and so stated in a petition signed by him and others to the Governor and Council for the patent of Acquackanonk. Soon after he returned to Bergen. By deed dated April 4, 1696, he conveyed his lot to Francis Post, for £31, 5 shillings. Post conveyed it away in parcels to various persons. Among the subsequent owners were Isaac Vreeland, John J. Post, Gerrit, Henry and Peter Gerritse, and Rev. Hendrick Schoonmaker, pastor of the Low Dutch Reformed Congregation at Acquackanonk (now "Old First" Church of Passaic), who resided here during the Revolution and until 1797, in a fine stone house overlooking the river, and set in the midst of a very large apple orchard. In 1836 Edo P. Merselis acquired a portion, parts of which are still owned by his heirs. Scotto C. Nash, at his death, was the owner of another portion. Adjoining this on the south was the residence of James Boggs, which still remains. Every family residing upon lots or farms above spoken of during the Revolution were loyal Americans not only in talk, but in action.

From the first mentioned farm family, Henry Speer enlisted in the Second Regiment of Essex county, serving also in Captain Craig's company of State





troops. William Speer also served as private in the war. From the next farm, James Simmons enlisted in Captain Bond's company, Fourth Battalion of the Second Establishment. He also served in the State militia. Simmons had as companions from that old farm, Abraham, Cornelius, Garret, John and Michael Vreeland. From the next farm John Van Riper went forth to fight for freedom. There is a tradition that a Dr. Osborn, his son-in-law, served in the medical corps, but the writer is unable to verify this, although it may be true, notwithstanding the records, which do not always include every detail.

From the next farm, which at that time had been divided into three smaller farms, we find that Abraham H. and Peter Gerritson enlisted, together with several Posts, viz.: Francis, who was captain in Colonel Thomas's battalion, detached militia, July 18, 1776; Garret, who was a farrier in Lee's Legion, Continental army; Henry, James and John J. [This last was not the John H. who destroyed Acquackanonk Bridge to prevent the British army from crossing. He resided on part of the first mentioned farm, as stated above]. Dr. Roche, who had married Anna, daughter of Abraham Gerritson, lived with his wife, at her father's house. He was a surgeon in the Southern Battery, Second Regiment, Essex county, in active service at the battle of Princeton, where he was severely wounded, but soon recovered from it, and last, but not the least, James Boggs, who, accompanied by Dr. Roche, went forth on a midnight ride to alarm the inhabitants of the coming of the British under General Clinton, toward the Acquackanonk Bridge. Boggs was then in service as a private, and continued until the end of the war. The following letter was written by Dr. Roche:

Acquackanonk, County of Essex,  
May 13, 1783.

Sir: Please to pay the bearer Mr. Henry Garritse, Junior, a certain Sum of Money, which Peter Wilson Esq'r of the county of Bergen, informs me, was made to me by the general assembly of the state of New Jersey. Sometime ago, for the cure of Captain Outwater, a wounded officer of the militia of said county, and now one of the Humble members of said assembly, and you'll oblige your Humble Serv't.

DR. NICH'S ROCHE.

To Mr. Stevens, Treasurer to the State of New Jersey, at Trenton.

Peter Wilson was a noted schoolmaster at Hackensack.

The next lot, No. 10, was either drawn by Symon Jacobse (Van Winkle) or claimed by him as part of the patent lands unallotted. At any rate he claimed to be the sole owner, and in his old age, by deed dated July 30, 1728, he conveyed the same to his four sons: Abraham, Jacob, Marynus and Simeon, together with all other patent lands undivided. In this deed is recited the facts of his being aged and infirm of body, and was the last surviving patentee, and seized of all unallotted patent lands. These four sons, by deed dated December 18, 1731, conveyed this farm of 200 acres, extending to the mountain, to Poulus Pieterse, and Petrus Pieterse, for 20 shillings. Strange as it may seem, it is a fact that they were the sons of Peter Poulese (Peter, son of Paul), and their surnames would have been Pieterse (or sen). The Dutch here were being surrounded by the English-speaking peoples, who were ignorant of Dutch customs. Legal documents and proceedings were in the hands of the English, and Dutch customs gradually gave way to the English, so that Peter and Poulus Pieterse, might get to be known, and sign their names, as and with their father's surname (Poulise), which actually became true and that became their surname; as we find that Poulus Paulise, by his will dated May 24, 1771, disposing of this property, signs it Poulus Paulise. The greater part of the old race track, lately purchased for school purposes by the city of Clifton, was upon this tract.

The next lot, No. 11, was drawn by Johannis (John Vreeland), from whom it went to his son, Elias J., and at his death to Mary Garritse, his daughter.



About 1870 the Erie railroad erected a depot on a portion of this land, at Kip's lane, placing a large sign upon the building lettered "Arlington," which failed to draw purchasers of lots nearby, and several speculators lost a great deal of money.

Kip's lane (with only one "p") was another patentee's lane or driftway, connecting with Buhan's lane; similar to Crooks avenue.

Elias Vreeland resided at southwest corner of Lexington and Hamilton avenues. He was the largest owner of land in the present city, much of which he cultivated, and for this purpose employed from twenty to twenty-five colored slaves. The money value of slaves depended upon their health and physical strength. A perfect man was worth and sold for £85. A perfect wench, £60. As a rule they were well and strong. So little care was given to the sick or diseased that they soon died. At the first sign of spring, Mr. Vreeland would start out with a score of slaves to repair the fences and clear the fields of all rubbish and prepare for the early plowing.

To feed twenty-five men and as many women ordinarily would be expensive, but Vreeland did not find it so. Their food consisted of corn meal and milk, of which there was abundance. Perhaps to encourage thrift, he gave his slaves the gleanings from the harvest fields and the sheaves that might fall from loads on the way from field to barn. The river furnished fish at all seasons and wild fowl and animals were in abundance, affording slaves opportunities for obtaining all flesh foods that they required. The rakings of the harvest fields were placed in one corner of the barn, upon the floor, while the master's sheaves were placed up in the hay mow, and when threshing time came the slaves, when they cleaned up the floor, would manage to throw a scoop full of the threshed grain over into their own heap. Of course this was done only occasionally, and when the master was absent. Boss Vreeland, although a hard task master, was tender-hearted, always ready to forgive. He had one slave named Harry who was given to pilfering, to cure him of which Vreeland often scolded him. As this had no effect, he applied to 'Squire Van Houten, who directed Constable Mitchel to whip him in public, according to law. The darkey was taken to the tavern horse sheds in Passaic, where he was given twenty lashes on the bare back, for which Vreeland, with tears in his eyes, paid the constable's fee of one shilling, and took the poor slave back home and instructed one of the women slaves to care for him until the lacerations on his back should heal.

Vreeland had a large iron pot shaped like a saucer, wherein the corn meal was cooked for the slaves, being boiled simply in water without any grease or flavoring—not even salt. It was called supdown. The pot held twenty-five gallons of the stuff, which was prepared three times daily, every day of the year.

The next lot, No. 12, was the ancestral home of another Michael Vreeland, son of Elias, who gave it to Michael, one of the leading men hereabouts all through the Revolution. He built his stone house on the west side of Weasel road, between the present Mina and Rosalie avenues, about 1740, where he resided until his death. This became known as Vreeland headquarters and where all business of that family was transacted. Upon his death in 1801, his property descended to an only child, Gitty, wife of Adrian Post, whose house the British took possession for two days in their pursuit of the American army. This was at Slaughter dam, now Robertsford, Garfield. She sold to Ralph Doremus, who sold to Cornelius Van Horne and he to John Philip Berry, who became prominent in the affairs of state. Mr. John Berry and his brother Richard are his descendants. They have resided in Clifton all their lives, the





former having had charge of the county roads, and the latter having been assessor of taxes for many years.

Philip Berry was a descendant of John Berry, who came to this country and settled in Bergen county, 1660, and acquired a patent for a tract of land between Hackensack river on the east, the Passaic and Saddle rivers on the west, and extending from near the present Union avenue, Rutherford, nearly to the New York State line.

William De Peyster Berry Earle, who was one time president of the Madison Square Bank, and who wrote a history of the family shortly before his death, June 26, 1898, expressed a desire to be buried in the "Old First" graveyard, Passaic, which was complied with, and on June 30 his body was placed in the Berry family vault.

As one passes along Lakeview avenue, and reaches Caroline avenue, he will notice a graveyard, consisting of trees, bushes, vines and weeds, about 250 feet to the west of the avenue, measuring about 75 by 100 feet. Between it and the avenue is a one-story brick dwelling, having the appearance of an Italian home, annexed to which is a tomato garden. Across the street are several frame dwellings, two and a half stories in height, of American style of architecture. No fence surrounds this yard, over and through which are many paths among the brambles and briers, bushes and trees, among which are bottles, bed springs, old wheels, tires and an assortment of old junk. No care or attention is shown to the place, which is as much of a virgin forest as could be found anywhere in the State. Appearances indicate that it is a good place where fair-sized poles have been obtained, and young trees secured for transplanting to a neighboring yard. All about lots have been sold by the former owner of the ancient farm, to which it belonged, but this parcel remains unsold and unimproved, and may never be, because it is an "Old Graveyard," in which the first burial took place in April, 1722, being that of the body of Elias Vreeland, the first owner of the old farm.

Although there was a graveyard connected with the old Reformed church as early as 1693, all burials were not made there, but in private burial plots on the respective farms of the most wealthy and numerous families, who preferred to have their dead buried together and near the old homestead. Thus it came to pass that this private graveyard of the Vreeland family was established. In the beginning it was not the custom to put any inscription on a tombstone, inasmuch as, only relatives being concerned, they knew whose graves were there and their location. At the head of the grave was placed a rough sandstone, three inches thick, two and a half feet wide, standing the same distance above the ground, while the same character of stone, two inches thick and twelve inches square above ground, was placed at the foot.

What are believed by the writer to be the stones of Elias Vreeland may still be seen at the southwesterly corner of the plot. The headstone, after two centuries of battling with the elements, retain only six inches of its former height, the rest having sunk into the ground, while the foot stone barely shows its top. There are other stones barely seen above ground. In addition to these there are white marble tombstones, inscribed as set forth below, premising that John P. was son of Philip Berry, and that Jane Post was the daughter of John P. She married James Post, January 13, 1842. The Post family lie at the northeasterly corner. The first stone, broken in two pieces, together with two other stones of the same size—one foot by three feet, and two inches thick—lay across a well travelled path used by the Italian settlers, who evidently have no more thought of the stones and their significance than they have of a stock. These stones are inscribed:



In memory of George  
son of James and Jane Post  
Died Dec. 9, 1846. 1 year, 3 months old.

Jane was daughter of John P. Berry.

In memory of James,  
son of James and Jane Post.  
Died Dec. 21, 1856. 3 years, 2 months.

In memory of Jane,  
daughter of James and Jane Post.  
Died Feb. 7, 1861. 2 years, 3 months.

In Memoriam  
James Post, who died July 17, 1863.  
43 years, 10 months, 16 days.  
My race is run and yours is running  
Be afraid of sin for judgments coming  
As I am now, so you must be  
Prepare for death and follow me.

At the southwesterly corner of the yard and among the stones of Vreeland, propped against a small tree, is a white marble headstone, two by three feet, inscribed:

In Memory of John P. Berry  
who died February 15, 1855,  
aged 63 years, 1 month and 20 days.  
Here, to dreary grave confined,  
He sleeps in deep dark gloom,  
Until the Eternal morning wakes  
The slumber of the tomb.

The city of Clifton should take charge of this old yard, the title to which is in the Vreelands, or the Vreeland heirs should sell it. It is worthy of care and preservation.

The next in order of farms was that of No. 13, at the northwest corner of Clifton and Lexington avenues, known as the Gerritse or Garrison farm. When Gerrit Gerritsen came to this country from Wagening, Holland, he brought along the following certificate:

We, burgomasters, shepens and councillors, of the city of Wagening, do declare by these presents, that there appeared before us, Hendrick Elissen and Jordiz Spiers, citizens of this city, at the request of Gerrit Gettisen and Annetje Hermansse, his wife. They have testified and certified, as they do, by these presents, that they have good knowledge of the above named Gerritsen and Annetje Harmanse, as to their life and conversation, and that have always been considered and esteemed as pious and honest people and that no complaint of any evil or disorderly conduct has ever reached their ears: on the contrary they have always led quiet, pious and honest lives, as it becomes pious and honest persons. They especially testify that they govern their family well, and bring up their children in the fear of God, in all modesty and respectability.

As the above named persons have resolved to remove and proceed to New Netherlands in order to find greater convenience, they give this attestation, grounded on their knowledge of them, having known them intimately, and having been in continual intercourse with them for many years, living in the same neighborhood.

In testimony of the truth, we the burgomasters of the city, have caused the private seal of the city to be hereto affixed.

Done at Wagening, 27th November, 1660. By the ordinance of the same.

J. AQUELIN.

The original of this certificate has been preserved, and is now in possession of the family.

This gives an idea of the sterling character of the founder of a family that helped to lay the foundation upon which Clifton has been laid, and on which







HENRY GARRITSE HOUSE



OLD NOTCH TAVERN





a civic structure has been raised by those who possess the same good qualities of one of its founders, never exceeded by any community.

Wageningen is an old town in Gelderlandt, ten miles from Arnhem, on the Rhine. For hundreds of years it has been extensively cultivated and considered most fertile. It has also enjoyed prosperity in trade and commerce. Because large farms were scarce, Gerrit Gerritsen came to America to obtain for little money a large farm whereon he could live and prosper. Accompanied by his wife and an only child, Gerrit, he arrived in New York, December 23, 1660, after a quick voyage in the ship "Faith," at a cost of \$36 for the three. He settled at Bergen, now the Communipau section of Jersey City, where he continued to reside all his life. He was one of the patentees of Acquackanonk, whereby he became owner of this and other farms. Inasmuch as it was necessary to reside here in order to obtain a patent, it is presumed he resided here, sometime between the date of the Indian deed, 1679, and the date of the patent, 1684, when he returned to Bergen. His wife died there, September 7, 1696, as did he, April 6, 1703.

His son, Gerrit, had several children, among them, Gerrit (3d), born March, 1687. This Gerrit was an elder and deacon of the present Old First Reformed Church of Passaic between 1727 and 1731. He died January 1, 1737, and was buried in the old graveyard of that church. His tombstone is the oldest in that yard, bearing an inscription.

Gerrit (2nd) had also a son Hendrick, born August 17, 1727. He signed his name Henry Garritse. His residence was this farm. He was a man of good counsel and excellent judgment, which was exercised to good advantage during the Revolution, wherein he took an active part. He was the first member of the Legislature from this district, and was a member of the Provincial Congress. By his will he devised this farm to his son Henry and the latter's son John, who, upon the death of his father, became sole owner. He married Mary, the only child of Elias J. Vreeland, and by her had four daughters, viz.: Catharine, Elizabeth, Hiley, and Jane (each of whom, remarkable as it may seem, married a Merselis), to whom this farm descended after the death of their mother, intestate, March 19, 1817. Henry had been in possession of this farm until his death in 1809, after which John occupied it, upon which is located the present bank, municipal building, post office, churches, fire house, and other important buildings.

Pieter had two sons, known as "Pietem's Pete" and "Pietem's Gat," the latter because of his hard-headed obstinacy was called Spijkerkop Gat, or "Nail-Headed Gat," who not being satisfied with the division by the family of some farm land, vowed that he would not be called by the same surname as the rest of the family, and thereupon took and thereafter retained the name of Van Wagoner, which is still born by his descendants.

Henry Garritse was considered a very wealthy man, known as such by all his acquaintances, of his day and generation, as judged by values of that time. But to-day he would be overlooked even among men of small means. A true and perfect inventory, including everything beside his farm, amounted to \$2,170, made up of live stock, implements and tools used on the farm, cash and notes. He had \$185 cash, and \$512 in notes.

The following is a copy of an old bill of a harness and shoemaker:

Henry Garritse	To Peter Simmons, Dr.	£	S.	P.
Oct. 15, 1793—Mending bairer of a chair .....		0.	1.	0.
May 19, 1794—Mending harness and traces .....		1.	19.	9.
Aug. 19, 1795—Working harness .....		0.	3.	0.
Nov. 2, 1795—Making a pair of Shues .....		0.	4.	6.
Jan. 21, 1796—Pair of heals .....		0.	0.	6.



	—Pair of headstalls .....	0.	10.	0.
	—Making a pair of shues .....	0.	5.	0.
	—Making a pair of heals .....	0.	0.	6.
Feb. 26, 1796	—Making a harness .....	3.	0.	0.
May 5, 1796	—Pad in a sadel .....	0.	8.	0.
	—Girt and cruper .....	0.	5.	0.
	—Mending halter & bridel .....	0.	1.	0.
Aug. 9, 1796	—Traces and braces .....	0.	4.	0.
	—Soleing and mending shes .....	0.	4.	0.
	—New Browbin Bound .....	0.	2.	0.
Sept. 10, 1796	—Making 2 pair shues .....	0.	10.	0.
	—Making pair of heals .....	0.	0.	6.
		7.	17.	3.

Received Octo. 27, 1796, of Henry Garritse senior and Henry Gerritse, Jr. the sum of six pounds, eight shillings, in full of All Accompts and Demands, per me.

PETER SIMMONS.

Simmons lived and had his shop in his house now covered by Dundee lake, as stated above.

In the early days post riders made regular trips delivering to subscribers at their homes newspapers, which would not have been sent by mail even though there had been such in this part of the State. The riders were paid by their customers, and the following are copies of bills for such service, plus cost of the papers:

Mr. Henry Gerritse, Dr.

To papers from December 1, 1792 to March 1, 1794.

Received february the 27, 1794, of Mr. Henry Gerritse the sum of Eleven shillings and Three pence in full for newspapers.

STEPHEN DAY.

Day kept tavern in Passaic.

Received February 29, 1797, of Henry Gerritse in full to March the first one pound four shillings for Shepherd Kolloc newspaper, By me

MATTHIAS WILLIAMS.

The newspaper referred to was the "New Jersey Journal," published at Elizabethtown, by Shepherd Kollock.

Four years, two months, 29th of October, 1799. Last of Post Riding by Williams, 8 Dollars, 32 Cents.

March 13, 1800, Received of Henry Gerritse, three dollars & thirty two cents in full for Shepherd Kollock newspaper up to November the first 1799, By me

MATTHIAS WILLIAMS.

In addition to harness and shoemaker, Gerritse required the services of a blacksmith in his farming pursuits as appears by the following bill:

Henry Garretson,

1799

To Adrian Van Riper, Dr.

Mch. 22	—Cutting rag of saw mill .....	0.	0.	9
Apr. 19	—Pinting a Shear .....	0.	3.	0
	—3¼ pounds nails .....	0.	3.	3
24	—Pair hinges & 1½ lbs. nails .....	0.	5.	6
27	—Setting a pair shoes .....	9.	1.	9
	—Mending beattle rings .....	0.	0.	6
	—Old shoes and setting them .....	0.	2.	0
May 3	—Seting pair shoes .....	0.	1.	0
June 5	—Sharping a Shear .....	0.	1.	0
19	—Putting cap on & mending Shear .....	0.	4.	6
21	—Making a hook & bolt to a plow .....	0.	1.	3
26	—Landside & pinting a Shear .....	0.	6.	0
29	—Toing & seting 3 pairs Shoes .....	0.	4.	6

Henry Garritse, the younger, was the county collector for seven years, 1782-1789. In those days the collector was responsible for all moneys due the





State, even though some might not have been paid, or accountable. On September 1, 1783, there was unpaid over £3,000, which the attorney-general demanded of him. Garritse having neglected to pay all, an action was instituted in the early part of 1785 to recover the balance, £127. The trial was set for May 12, 1786, but before that date the matter was settled. On December 24, 1789, the attorney-general wrote to Garritse, threatening to bring suit to recover £848, deficiency, unless the same was paid speedily. After waiting three months suit was instituted, but did not proceed, as the case was settled. Again, on October 10, 1791, the State treasurer wrote him to pay £215, being an overcharge. He paid it. There were other claims against him from the State, all which he paid after he ceased to be the collector. To reimburse himself he instituted suits against many delinquents, of whom he recovered very little. He retired from office a poorer but a wiser man. There was never any question as to his honesty. His great weakness was his kindheartedness toward delinquent taxpayers toward whom he granted indulgences at times when he should have insisted upon prompt payments. He possessed the confidence of his neighbors, for whom he acted as agent, counsel, arbitrator, administrator, and executor.

In 1781 Henry Garritse was one of three commissioners appointed to assess the damages sustained by the farmers here during the Revolution.

The last lot, No. 14, of the Weasel Division, at the southwest corner of Clifton avenue and Weasel road, containing 100 acres, was allotted to Elias Vreeland about 1685, from whom the same passed to his two sons, Michael and Jacob in 1700. Michael erected a stone house on the corner, and in 1707 conveyed the same to Jacob, who by his will bearing date July 2, 1755, devised the same to his Elias, who conveyed to his brother, John Jacob, by whose will, dated May 20, 1796, this farm was devised to his son, Jacob John, and he conveyed it to Dr. James Van Buren, who came here from Hackensack and began the general practice of medicine. His father's family were of the original settlers of Kingston, New York, and related to Martin Van Buren, one-time President of the United States. The doctor commenced the practice of his profession at Hackensack. When the Revolutionary War began he was there, where he owned considerable real estate. He was not in sympathy with the Colonists in their fight for freedom, and became an outspoken Tory, which obliged him to flee to Nova Scotia, whereupon all his property was confiscated to the State and sold. After the war and in 1791, he returned to this State and settled at Clifton, where he died in 1802, leaving seven children and a widow, who the same year married Lawrence E. Ackerman and moved away. In the year 1803 the widow and heirs of the doctor conveyed the property to Peter Jackson. The doctor left a will, appointing his neighbor, Henry Garritse, who resided on the opposite corner, and who had been one of his patients. The following being copies of the original receipts may prove interesting in this connection.

		Mr. Henry Garritse, Dr.	
Aug. 4, 1800.		To Doct. James Van Beuren	
To services in the year 1798 .....		£20.	15s.
Cr. By cash .....		10.	
Balance due .....		10.	15.

Received August 5, 1800, of Henry Garritse ten pounds fifteen shillings, in full of the above account.

CATHARINE VAN BEUREN.

Received the 28th day of May, 1803, of Mr. Henry Garritse, Junior, executor of the last will and testament of my father Doctor James Van Buren, dec., the sum of \$113.12 being my full proportion of the proceeds of the estate of my said father, bequeathed to me in and by said last will and testament.

PETER J. VAN BEUREN.



A similar receipt is signed by Sylvester Van Buren. Both were sons of the doctor.

Dr. Van Buren, in his application for reimbursement for losses sustained in the war, made oath:

That he was a practising physician and surgeon when the war commenced. He prevented his sons from taking up arms with the Rebels, declaring it to be against his Principles. Had two sons, above 16, who were called upon to take up arms. In the year 1776 he attended as surgeon on some of the wounded soldiers of the American army. Got nothing for it. He was employed by Washington, and continued the care of the wounded Rebels after the British came to Hackensack in November, 1776, and provided an hospital for the 26th Regiment attending to that, also, hospital, New York, from July, 1777, until September, 1783, when I was appointed by Sir Guy Carleton Assistant Surgeon on the Staff. My pay has been 7 shillings and 6 pence per diem. All my property was confiscated and sold. I owned a tract of 60 acres of land, in the Trenton Manor, for which I paid in May, 1773, £777 New York currency. I expended £200 in improvements. I considered it worth to me £1,000. In addition I lost

Waggon £10: Chaise £10: Sulky £12 .....	£ 32.
3 horses .....	48.
5 horned cattle, old and young .....	13.
Plough and harrow .....	3.
3 feather beds, bed stead and bedding .....	18.
2 dining tables .....	4.
A tea and dressing table .....	3.
Bureau £8, chairs £16 .....	24.
Kitchen furniture £5, Book £6 .....	11.
Shop furniture and medicines .....	30.
Sheets and table linen .....	4.

£190.

In same year he acted as guide to the British under General Grant. Was imprisoned by the Rebels on account of having been a guide to the British. They threatened to hang him. Carried him about sixteen miles to a church. General Clinton took him. Women of his acquaintance made application for him, and he was discharged after eight days' confinement. After remaining a short time at home, he was again imprisoned. In 1778 he joined a foraging party of British and went off with them.

George Banta conducted a tavern here nearly a century ago, but because the new turnpike (now Main avenue) was diverting the travel from the old Weasel road, which for generations had been considerable, because it was the only road of any consequence hereabouts, he found it did not pay, and closed it, removing to Passaic, alongside the church, where he conducted business until his death, May 30, 1831. The present Clifton Erie depot is upon this farm, which with the land attached together with \$5,000 was given to that railroad in 1867 by the Clifton Land and Building Association. The money was used to erect a depot, which, however, was destroyed by fire, but rebuilt. Mr. Samuel Grocock, now of Passaic, was the first ticket agent here as early as 1866. His office was a barrel upon the head of which were his tickets and date stamp. The first ticket sold was for Paterson and was purchased by Garret Merselis. The second one was for New York, purchased by Mrs. Walker, then occupying the old Henry Garritse house, one of whose daughters, Lizzie, used to teach in Passaic's schools. The old Clifton grove was on this farm, which for a score of years was a popular picnic woods, well known for miles around and patronized by schools and societies of all sorts. It was controlled by the proprietor of Clifton Grove Hotel, which remains standing on the other side of Main avenue, on land that comes from this tract, upon which also stands the High School in great contrast to the first little school house above described.

With this last described lot ended the famous Weasel Division, the richest





section of the patent, whose fertile fields and substantial dwellings earned for it the title, "Garden spot of the Jersies." Adjoining lot 1 was lot 8, of the Gotham Division, previously mentioned. The Erie railway and the Paterson & Hamburg turnpike cut across all the lots of Weasel Division.

Clifton avenue was laid out on the line between lots 13 and 14, April 7, 1714, making it the second oldest road ever laid in the present county of Passaic. Clifton therefore is able to boast of the two oldest roads of and in the county.

Clifton may well be proud of this old Weasel Division. Few localities did more than she to make the Revolution a success. First and foremost was the Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker, who preached and lectured on the subject, whereby during the dark days of the struggle many took courage and increased their efforts. Next in importance was John H. Post, whom we are pleased to call a hero of the Revolution, followed closely by James Boggs and Dr. Roche. Not far behind them came the many privates from all but two of the homes within said district whom old age prevented from taking part.

Then there was Henry Garritse, whose profound judgment enabled him to direct the affairs of state so well that everything went smoothly.

While there were Tories in those days in many communities, they did not live in Weasel Division, so far as the writer has been able to discover. There is a tradition, however, that there was one—a Vreeland—who fled to Canada until after the war. Upon his return he called upon Mrs. Garritse, who drove him out of the house, saying: "We don't want traitors here." But the editor of this work, in all his investigations, has failed to locate him and is unable to verify this.

It is well to bear in mind that the early inhabitants of this section were born and bred lovers of Liberty, with a big "L," consequently when the first rumble of trouble with the British government was heard, they did not have to study up, nor go to mass meetings to listen to a lecture on the fundamental proposition. They lost no time considering, but at once held a meeting in the little school house, corner Garritse's lane and Weasel road (Clifton and Lexington avenues) and elected delegates to attend a mass meeting to be held in the open air, viz.: upon Acquackanonk bridge (Passaic), December 12, 1774. It was held. The delegates from Weasel were: Michael Vreeland, chosen chairman, and Dr. Nicholas Roche, clerk; Henry Garritse, the only one north of Newark on the county committee of nine of the best men therein; Jacob Garritse, tax collector of the township and overseer of roads; Peter Peterse, who had tan yard and whose residence was corner of Kip lane and Weasel road, and John Spier, from Patentee's lane (Crook's avenue). These, with three other men from other parts, represented what is now Clifton, on the committee to take charge of all matters pertaining to this township (Acquackanonk). Those were stirring days, and much was required of them. They were in no sense figure heads, but real live wires, heavily charged. Their first duty was to ascertain the sentiments of a certain number of the inhabitants whose names were given to each one of the committee. At the same time another of the committee was to keep surveillance over those whom he had not spoken to on the subject, and ascertain if he was or was not dealing in any article of British manufacture. At the end of every week they met in the school house to compare notes, and once a month reported to the committee as a whole at Leslie's tavern, Passaic, where the names of all farmers, craftsmen, tradesmen, doctors and lawyers who continued British patronage were written in a bold hand and posted in the barroom. If the offending party (there were a few) was reported at the next meeting, he would be requested to appear before the committee at the next meeting. This "did the trick," and soon all dealings





referred to ceased, not only here, but over the whole of the colonies, compelling the repeal of stamp tax laws.

These (our) men performed a sufficiently important (even so to be considered at this late day) service as to merit the preservation of their names on a bronze tablet in Clifton's municipal building along with her other veterans of the Revolution.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### EARLY SETTLERS AND HOMESTEADS.

The first settlers of the present city of Clifton, were well-to-do, frugal and very industrious, and so soon as settled began to improve their farms. They were Hollanders, and spoke and wrote in Dutch entirely, down to the beginning of the last century. They were sticklers for the observance of Sunday and attendance upon the preaching services in their church (now the Old First, of Passaic) whence every member of every family went, not every Sunday, perhaps, but very frequently. Because of the distance they rode, to and fro, on horseback or wagon. Carriages were unknown, and an improvised wagon was used whose body was made of rough boards, placed upon the front and back bolsters over the axles, without springs. Upon this, crosswise, were several bench seats, made of the same rough boards, raised about fifteen inches above the floor, and without backs, or any support, or as sometimes was the case boxes were used for seats. But by far the most comfortable, and at the same time most fashionable among people of other communities and followed here, was a homemade, plain, kitchen chair, whose back afforded support. The motive power was furnished by horses as well as oxen. The families of Garret Post, Symon Van Winkle, John Van Riper, Michael Vreeland and others drove to church on a long flat wagon without sides, sitting on chairs, spinning along behind two meek and lowly oxen.

In time carriages came along and the first to make use of one in which to drive to church were Gerrit Gerritse and John E. Vreeland. Before the days of Sunday schools, children were drilled by their minister in catechism and Bible truths once a week, usually on Saturday afternoons, sometimes at the church, schoolhouse, or at private houses, depending upon the physical condition of the minister, the weather, or other circumstances.

Books and literature were very scarce, not because these farmers were not of literary turn of mind, but because of the difficulty of obtaining them. A few received occasionally a Dutch paper, or pamphlet, from their old home town in Holland, while two or three read a weekly paper published in Philadelphia, Boston, or New York. But the difficulty in obtaining a post rider, regularly, there being no postal delivery, precluded that benefit. And yet it is surprising how well informed they always were on the topics of the times, particularly on political matters. With the agitation over the Boston Port bill, the tax of three pence a pound on tea bill, and the bill for a tax on about everything used, passed by Parliament, these farmers were found to be fully informed on every phase of these matters, and were ready to voice their dissent to the measures, and were among the first to take action culminating in the Revolution, which was, as Henry Gerritse used to explain—not caused by these objectionable laws, which simply hastened it. Being an uncommonly good reasoner he reasoned that the foundation of that war was laid long before these bills were even thought of. He believed that colonies become nations as certainly as boys become men, and by a similar law. The Declaration of



Independence at Philadelphia was but the Contract signed by the forty-one sad and stricken ones on the waters of Provincetown, with the growth of 156 years. The intermediate occurrences were sources of discipline, of development and of preparation. At most taxation and the kindred questions did but accelerate the dismemberment of the British Empire, just as a man whose lungs are half consumed, hastens the crisis by suicide.

Although in many colonies the first houses for dwelling purposes were caves dug in hillsides, cabins of tree barks, or log houses, neither of these, as a rule, was erected hereabouts. There was an abundance of building material—timber of the forests, stone of the fields and nearby mountain clay beds along the streams, and even lime rock ledges not far away. Though the first settlers had no saw mill or brick kiln, they had among themselves carpenters, masons and kiln operators, who had brought with them in anticipation of a virgin community, not only their tools of trade, but nails and other hardware. In addition they had money, sufficient for their needs, as is evidenced by the fact that few, if any, had to borrow and give a mortgage to secure it. They were a peculiar people and sufficient unto themselves. As a rule, and because they had the means and skill to do it, commodious, well constructed stone houses, of Dutch architecture with shingled roof, and frame gables, were erected, along the main roads, consisting of the main building and kitchen. Through the center of the former ran a wide hall, from front to the rear, at each end of which was a Dutch door, i. e., a door cut, in the centre, horizontally, into two parts, upper and lower. At any time the opening of the upper let in the air and sunshine, while keeping the lower closed prevented small children from going out, and cows, horses, pigs and fowls from coming in the house. On each side of the hall or entry were large rooms—the parlor being the largest in the house, occupied the half of the house on one side, and the living room and visitors' bedroom the other side. There was a large open fireplace in the parlor and living room fitted with handsome fire-dogs of various and unique patterns, embellished with filigree work, in copper, cut-steel, and cast or wrought iron in various devices, above which was the back bar, with its chain and hook ready for a kettle. Surrounding the fireplace was a wooden mantel which was very often of exquisite design and figure, very delicately panelled and moulded; all of the finest material and workmanship. Even the fine filigree was wrought by hand by carpenters who were ever proud of their handiwork. On both sides of the mantel were cupboards, with sash doors above the center, and panelled ones below. These usually were of the finest wood and best workmanship, the front made to correspond with the mantel. Every owner took pride in mantel and cupboard, which he took pains to call attention of his visitors thereto, as much as he did to show off the stairs and balusters and railing. The balusters, handmade, were long and slim and very delicately turned and carved. In the ceilings the "sumers and gist" were left exposed to view, bearing the weight of the upper floor, thereby differing with those of the present day, which are nothing more than base deceivers. Attached to the mainbuilding and the most important and, during cold weather, the most comfortable room in the whole house, was the kitchen, which too, boasted of a fireplace—not for ornament or exhibition purposes—but for every day, practical use, around which the family might gather for warmth, even though at times the heated air would be mingled with smoke. The kitchen fireplace was furnished with all necessary cooking appliances. On the back bar were hung iron chains, to which were attached hooks of various lengths, called pot hooks, trammels, hakes, pot-hangers, pot-claws,





pot-clips, pot-brakes, pot-crooks, and ling pole. On these hooks, pots and kettles could be hung for cooking. The fireplace was often called clavell-piece, and the lug pole a gallows-balke.

Even though the kitchen might be dingy and the furniture scant and plain, all was forgotten in the comfortable warmth which was imparted there, while all other rooms were without heat and consequently not inviting. In winter the living room was seldom used, while the parlor was opened only for company or when the minister and wife made a call and stayed to supper, which was seldom during cold weather.

The colored slaves did not avail themselves of their masters' house nor mingle in their social affairs. They had a house or houses which were known as slave quarters, consisting of one or more buildings usually of frame, one story high, depending in length on the number of slaves a man owned. Michael Vreeland, the owner of two score slaves, had a building nearly 200 feet long, which housed them. It stood near Roosevelt avenue, 300 feet west of the present road along the river. One kitchen was sufficed for a score of persons. The remaining space was simply sleeping quarters. But the slaves' kitchen in winter was a paradise, in which the colored assembled at night.

The fireplace was the attraction. It was very large—anywhere from ten to sixteen feet wide and six to eight feet deep, around the inside of which, as well as on each front side, was a stone ledge, used by the children to lounge upon while they listened to the tales of some old man or watched the roasting of nuts, or pop corn, under their care, or followed the processes of the cooking of some tempting viands then being prepared for the feast that all were to partake of, so soon as ready, appetites for which were sharpened by the savory odors coming from the pots and pans that hung among the pot hooks and trammels attached to the iron lug-pole, which reached from side to side of the open fireplace six or eight feet above the hearth stones, upon which rested the burning logs, whose flames leaped far up into the mysterious (to the youngsters) canyon above. The master did not interfere with the sports and frolics of his slaves in the evenings, when a feast would be indulged in, very often graced by his presence.

The kitchen had a bedroom above, which was used by the parents and younger children. The latter used a trundle bed, which was only one foot high, with railing around the top. This was kept under the parents' bed, not only when not in use, but during extremely cold weather when, after the child had been tucked in it would be pushed under the bed.

Older children and adults slept in the garret of the main building, which was so cold as to freeze. The walls were unplastered and the partitions plain board, while the shingle roof, forming the ceilings, was far from being waterproof, or even snowproof, both of which would filter through the cracks in the shingles. It was unnecessary to keep a window open in those days.

The only hardship, however, was the undressing for bed, much of which was, in very cold weather, performed in the kitchen, from which a run would be made for the garret and bed, taking along a heated stone to put between sheets. And such beds. Lengthwise and crosswise of the bedframe ropes, passing around the heads of wooden pins would be stretched, upon which would be placed a tick of loose straw (no hard mattress) a foot thick, and upon this there would be a light-weight fluffy, homemade feather bed, into which the sleeper would sink so completely as in a heap of sand, that not even a crack between his body and the feather tick, remained for Jack Frost to enter or even to blow through. Blankets were not used for covering. Instead,



homemade patch work quilts were used. Many beautiful ones were to be found in every home where they were made—many of them at quilting “bees,” which were notable affairs, maintained for generations by the womenfolk in this and adjoining localities. Great pride was taken in, and much value placed upon her bed and bedding by women, young and old. Very often the maiden name of the woman would, in colored threads, be worked thereon, never to be forgotten, thereby helping to keep alive her family name.

A bride who could bring to her husband at least one of such beds and half a dozen quilts was considered a model wife. Time did not depreciate the value, nor lessen the veneration for these things, as is shown, when the creeping on of years, warns the former bride of the necessity of providing for their disposition after she has passed on, and with this end in view she, by her last will, gives the same to her or them whom she believes will respect and preserve the gift.

On the front doors of these houses no expense was spared. There are a number remaining to this day, with their hand carved panels, thick stiles and cross pieces; many with leaded side windows, whose delicate glass tracings are close imitations of vine or twig, accompanied with fan lights, whose tracings are so fine as to excite surprise in their strength and wonder at the work of the skillful hand that formed them to last for so many years. The doors were adorned with knockers, made of iron, copper or brass, of various designs, in harmony with the door latches, some a foot long, two inches wide at the front, and one inch at the other end, surmounted by a large goosenecked handle of various metals, many being plain, while a few were ornamented.

Every window of the first story at least had a pair of shutters—not for ornament, but for actual use, particularly in cold or stormy weather and at night, when they materially helped to make the house warm and served as protection both from weather and burglars. In them the skill of carpenters, who made them by hand, was shown as they were specimens of material and workmanship not often met with at the present time.

Our first settlers here were short on artificial light. The days of the pine knot, with its unsteady flame had passed, followed by the tallow candle, which seemed to meet requirements. Books, papers and magazines were very scarce. In addition to the Bible there was to be found in several of the homes the “New York Weekly Post Boy,” “Pennsylvania Gazette,” or “Boston News Letter,” which were thoroughly read, no doubt, by the candle’s feeble twinkle. Candles were made by women of the household, from tallow, in moulds for that purpose. In the center of each mould a stout piece of twine (wick) would be suspended, and the mould filled with hot liquid tallow, which when allowed to cool and become hard, became a candle ready for use. The work was simple, easy and quickly performed.

Every home of the first families was comfortably furnished, even though not abundantly. Many articles had been brought from Holland, while others were made by craftsmen of this neighborhood, who could fashion and, by hand, construct articles of furniture which in their finished state would in appearance equal and, in their wearing qualities exceed, the modern article. John Vasher, whose shop before and during the Revolution stood at the present southeasterly corner of Dundee avenue and Lexington avenue, was a noted cabinet maker in his day. John Wanshair, who had a shop on River drive, adjoining Passaic, had a share in this industry which, at one time, reached large proportions.

A dining room, as such, was unknown. Meals were cooked and prepared,





as well as eaten, in the kitchen. When company, such as the minister, wife and children, or other noted persons, came to dinner or supper, the table was set in the seldom used parlor. There was very little ceremony at the table, where each one reached for what was wanted. The writer when a child accompanied his parents to a dinner at one of these farm houses. In the center of the table was a very large bowl of an Irish stew-meat, potatoes, carrots, onions, parsley, etc., mixed in gravy. Each person was given a fork and spoon. After asking a blessing the master of the house jabbed his fork into the stew and drew out a forkful, placed it in his mouth and ate it, repeating the operation until satisfied, all others doing the same. From a large pitcher of milk each one drank as often as desired. A loaf of bread went the rounds of the table supplied with a large dish of butter, into which the knives of the eaters plunged at frequent intervals. Rice pudding was the dessert. It was in a large dish placed in the center of the table, from which mouthfuls would be taken by the respective spoons. Those sitting beyond reach would stand up and reach over. This was the custom of serving meals in most of the households, and was brought about in order to save time of the women folk, who had work more important than dish washing requiring attention. A few—and a very few—had a table cloth, and individual plates, cups and saucers. Napkins were unknown.

Liquor—gin and whiskey, Jersey apple jack, were freely used by men, who partook of it upon retiring and again upon arising in the morning. Men callers, social or business, not omitting the dominie, were treated to "a nip." The writer remembers accompanying his father to one of these places to purchase a cow and pigs. When the transaction had been completed, all parties went from the barns into the kitchen, where a treat of apple jack of generous portions was given, in small whiskey glasses, diluted in warm water and sweetened with brown, burnt sugar, provided for that purpose. The boys were not allowed to drink, but were permitted to scrape the glass for the pungent sugar, whose taste lingered for many a day.

The farmers of this vicinity were noted for their fine live stock, both cows and horses, and it was but natural for those in quest of such to come here. The Garrisons, Van Ripers and Speers were noted for their fine horses. John H. Garrison had a stud farm, which subsequently became the property of Henry V. Butler, whose barns stood where now is the manufactories of the Jacque Wolf Company. Speer had an equally famous one on the land where now is the Ridgelawn cemeteries, adjoining which was that of Van Riper.

Altogether, therefore, Clifton has been well supplied with all the good and necessary things of this life which, in fact, were better and more abundant than in most communities.

*Social Gatherings*—During Colonial, Revolutionary and following years it was customary for neighbors hereabouts to make visits to each others' homes, where a social hour was passed most happily. The winter season was the time and kitchen the place, of all which that of Simmons—Peter the father and after his death James his son—was the most frequented. His house, now covered by the waters of Dundee lake, stood opposite the present Sixth street, extended between the old road and river.

Simmon's house was a long building facing the road. Attached to the main building on the south, was the kitchen, about half the size of the main building, which was an unusual size, owing to the fact that it had been erected by one Hartman Vreeland and enlarged by his sons Garret and Michael, all having





large families. The bigness of the kitchen had the advantage over all other kitchens of the neighborhood, whose old-fashioned fireplace, 'tis said, was large enough to accommodate twelve children at one time, sitting around on the stone shelf on the inside, in order to get warm before scrambling off to bed in the icy cold garret. In this kitchen then, neighbors, mostly men of the vicinity, were wont to congregate, whiling the time eating apples and nuts, drinking cider and, some time the famous Jersey apple jack, accompanied by the smoking of home grown tobacco in long stemmed clay pipes.

These feasts were no afternoon teas, and dyspepsia, in any form, was unknown. The men were strong and hardy, resulting from their outdoor manual labor. This was known to Mrs. Simmons and for the dinner sheep had to be killed as well as a small pig, turkey and chicken, whose dressing and roasting entailed much labor, performed gladly. At the commencement of the Revolution these feasts were started with the singing of the following, while all stood:

Ye Parliaments of England,  
Your Lords and Commons, too,  
Consider well what you're about,  
And what you mean to do,"

Followed by three cheers for George Washington. At these gatherings songs would be sung, the bare recital of which would indicate their position in the struggle for independence. A few verses are here given. The first has reference to Vreelands, who had previously resided in this house:

The Tories had to flee to Nova Scotia—  
That cold and barren land;  
Where they had to live on shell fish,  
By digging in the sand.

John Paulding, who captured Andre, had a nephew of the same name, then residing near Crooks avenue, and one of those gathered in this kitchen to assist in singing the praises of the gallant men of the Navy:

Our gunner got frightened, and to Paul Jones he came,  
Our ship takes water, likewise a flame;  
Paul Jones then did smile, in the heighth of his pride,  
Saying, this day we will conquer, sink them or die.

Of Commodore Perry, when he took to the small boat to go to the "Niagara," and a musket ball knocked a hole in her side, these farmers sang:

And he took off his coat,  
And he plugged up the boat;  
And thru fire and shot away he did steer,  
And showed to us all a man who did dare.

Of course, they did not forget Decatur, that renowned admiral, and in recognition of his valor sung thus:

Next your Macedonian, no finer ship could swim;  
Decatur took her gilt work off, and then he took her in.  
Next you took your Boxer to beat us all about,  
But it appeared we had a brig that beat old Boxer out.  
We boxed her up to Portland, and moored her off that town,  
To show the Sons of Liberty the boxers of renown.

After it became apparent that the British could not succeed, many of her soldiers left the ranks, wandered over the country, strolling by night and laying in barns and along fences and hedges during the day. In reference to them there was sung:



Behind the hedges and the ditches,  
 The trees, and every stump,  
 You see the sons of bitches,  
 The cursed British jump.

These farmers did not hesitate to show their colors. They can never be accused of being Tories. Would that their names might be carved on a tablet to remind us of patriotism. At the height of one of these festive occasions the singers were interrupted by the appearance of three British soldiers, who announced that they were instructed to arrest James Simmons for his activities in stirring up sentiment against the King. With this explanation of their intrusion they grabbed hold of Simmons and were in the act of tying his hands behind him, before the assembled men realized the situation. When they did comprehend the object of the soldiers, these farmers got busy and turned the tables by assuming the offensive. The soldiers were made prisoners, their arms and legs tied and carried out to the smoke house, where they remained prisoners until delivered over to the authorities, who imprisoned them in Morristown jail.

"Killing time" in the late fall was the greatest event of the year, for which preparations were made weeks in advance, not only by the men, but also by the women, who planned a feast for the men who assisted in the killing. Of meats there were beef and pork; of fowl, turkey, chicken and pigeon, and of dessert, doughnuts, crullers, various kinds of pie, cider and apple jack.

The summers' harvests furnished plenty of hay, straw, wheat, corn, rye, potatoes and other vegetables, followed by buckwheat in the fall.

A butcher's shop was unknown and the country store far away. People kept poultry and could, if necessary, kill a fowl, and there were so many pigeons during the season that they could be entrapped or shot by the thousands, and people were glutted with pigeon meat for several months of the year. Then there were rabbits in plenty and a smart boy during fall and winter could get all he wanted and once in a while a 'coon, and best of all squirrels for the finest pot pie in the world. At times wild ducks came up the river in great flocks, and could be shot as they flew, and frequently wild geese as well. Of fish, too, the river abounded in striped bass and perch, and great quantities of shad every spring, of which every family salted in barrels every year. So there was little need of the butcher who came along, if at all, at rare intervals. Sometimes not once in three months. But all the farmers had swine and cattle and after killing time were provided with meat for the whole, or nearly the whole, year.

Every farmer had colored slaves who, during the week between December 24 and January 2, in every year, were given a vacation, free to go where they wished, and released from all labor, which the masters performed during that period, when the slaves would visit around among other farm houses, where they would be feasted on everything they could eat, not omitting the coveted Jersey applejack. The farmers themselves visited about, making this week a festive holiday.

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#### CHAPTER IV.

#### DISTRICT SCHOOL, OLD MILLS.

Going away back to Colonial days, there was a district school house at the southwest corner of Lexington and Clifton avenues, which was still there as late as 1819, as appears in a deed of that year for this property, wherein it is





described as "Beginning at a heap of stones near the wall of the old school house in the corner of two roads, one leading from Paterson Landing to the town of Paterson and the other running westerly from the aforesaid road to Little Falls, at a distance of one chain on a course of south ten degrees east, from the most southerly corner of Henry Garritse's farm whereon he now lives."

There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,  
The village master taught his little school.  
A man severe he was, and stern to view.  
I knew him well, and every truant knew.

The first teacher of whom the writer has any knowledge was James Billington, an Irish Redemptioner, who came to Passaic about 1740, taught in the district school there for five years, and in 1745 went to this Weasel school, where he taught for many years. He was unmarried and lived with Michael Vreeland in a house now under the waters of Dundee lake. He came here from Dublin, where he served as clerk in a law office. Being too poor to continue his work there for the small pay received, he resolved to go to America. Being unable to pay his passage money, he sold himself to the captain of a sailing vessel for \$40, which he paid out of his school salary, and, in time, effected his redemption. His legal training enabled him to earn quite a little by drawing wills and other legal papers for the farmers. He was a jolly fellow, full of wit, and an interesting talker and good speaker. He was a most excellent teacher and popular with parents as well as pupils. He died at the beginning of the Revolution. After him came William Jenner, whose grandfather came to America previous to the Revolution, settling on a farm at Preakness. In his youth William left home and followed the life of a sailor for several years, during which he visited the larger cities of the world, picking up an excellent education and a valuable fund of general information, of which he felt so proudly and considered so valuable that he determined to make use of it by teaching school. Upon returning home from a lengthy voyage, which proved to be the last one, and while reading the "New Jersey Journal," he came upon this advertisement:

Schoolmaster wanted. One who understands reading, writing, arithmetic and mensuration may have the job, at Weasel school, by coming to me, there. Henry Garritse, trustee.

Jenner secured the position, entering upon his duties on Monday, September 3, 1798. Here he remained several years, when he went to Preakness and taught there until 1813, when he returned to the Weasel school. In the meanwhile, he had taken St. Paul's advice and followed after Charity, daughter of James Ackerson, with whom and their three children he occupied quarters in the school building, which was of two stories, twenty-two feet by forty-four feet, with a cupola. Here he remained about three years, when he mysteriously disappeared and his wife returned to her father's home to live. She never heard from her husband, nor did his acquaintances.

Thomas Henderson, an Englishman, took charge of the school about 1794. He was dubbed "an old tyrant, cross grained and ugly monster," in marked contrast to his charming pretty wife, who was adored by the pupils for her kind and gentle treatment of pupils while she acted as assistant teacher. He was a most competent mathematician and an accomplished surveyor, doing considerable work in that line. He "struck out" many of the old farm lines, and, in addition had the honor of surveying the lands of the "Old First" Church, Passaic, and making a map of the same, which is still used or referred to at the present time. While at Weasel he created no little excitement by instructing his pupils in the art of declamation, and for the better inflation of



pupils' lungs and accommodation of the parents who used to attend the occasional "exhibitions," as they were called, in large numbers, these exercises were held in a large barn near the school house, the floor of which was cleared for that purpose, with a temporary platform, constructed by the older boys at the back, covered with rag carpet and screened by a calico curtain suspended from a pole, supported by posts.

About 1806 Bernard Sheridan, an intelligent Irishman, with a marked brogue, succeeded Henderson and kept the school up to a very high standard; so much so that he had as many as seventy pupils, a number of whom came as far as three and four miles away to enjoy the benefits of his instruction. He continued the "exhibitions" inaugurated here by Henderson, which by the year 1811 had become so well known as to merit notice in the "Newark Sentinel," which in its issue of June 30, that year, says:

On Saturday last, a school exhibition was held in Mr. B. N. Sheridan's school in the neighborhood of Weasel, and it is but due justice to Mr. Sheridan (considering the short period of tuition) to say, that his pupils exceeded the most sanguine expectations of their parents, as well as the numerous audience, who had the pleasure of being present at the exhibition.

Sheridan taught here until his death, November 21, 1814, and was buried in the graveyard of the "Old First" Church, Passaic, right alongside of the district school, where he had taught before going to Weasel school. Upon his tombstone was inscribed:

Here lies an honest man at rest,  
As ever God in his image blest,  
A friend of man, a friend of truth,  
A friend of age, a guide to youth;  
If there's another world, he lives in bliss,  
If there's none, he made the best of this.

Bryant Sheys also taught here. He was an Irishman with a rich brough to the last. He came to Weasel, 1790, from Taunton, Massachusetts ((where he had taught school during the Revolution), and worked as a farm hand. He married Ann Duval, of the Notch, April 21, 1792, and after the birth of a son William, on August 19 following, he opened a tavern on Oliver street, Pater-son, which he conducted until 1802, when he sold out and assumed charge of Weasel school, but for only two or three years, when he returned to the tavern business, which he continued until 1822, and then came back to the Weasel school, where he remained a number of years, almost to his death, 1828. He was a Protestant and attended the "Old First" Church, with his wife, daughter Harriet and son James B. (afterwards a prominent lawyer of New York). Sheys was short and stout of build, was a man of fine parts, an excellent scholar, frank and generous to a fault, and popular with all.

After Sheys' time the land whereon the school house stood was purchased by Richard J. Banta, whose son George erected horse sheds thereon in connection with a tavern which he conducted in an old stone house which stood upon the site of the present frame dwelling of Mrs. Kip. The school house, of one story, eighteen feet by twenty-two feet, which was owned by the township, was removed to a lot of land owned by Henry Garritse, who leased it to the township for twelve shillings a year. This lot was described as being on the north side of Garritse's lane (now Clifton avenue), about 500 feet from the Weasel road, which placed it in the roadway of the present Lake View avenue, where it remained until 1870, attended by many of the older residents of the city who are still living. The last teacher was Miss Henrietta Johnson, who was unable to manage many of her unruly boy pupils, who attempted to run





things, which discouraged her and she resigned. Immediately the school was closed, never to be opened.

The building itself was used for public meetings and elections, and other purposes for years, until Lake View avenue forced its removal to Garretsee place, in the rear of the Garritse old homestead, and converted into a carriage house, where it may still be seen remodelled.

There were other old schools constructed in Colonial days, while Clifton was in Essex county. One in particular, known as "the log school house," was the first to serve pupils in the neighborhood of the Notch.

Another, known as Stone House road school house, had among its pupils one or more boy pupils who became famous in the annals of the county and State. Some of these schools are treated of in chapters pertaining to the locality where each is located.

*Ancient Industries*—During the Colonial period many saw and grist mills were operated in the present cities of Clifton, Passaic and Paterson, and of which Clifton had the most. The first saw mill was that of Symon Van Winkle, which stood near where now stand ice houses of Simmons, on the westerly side of old Weasel road, south of Dundee avenue. This business was established about 1692, and supplied a coming want because of the demand for lumber, timber, shingles for houses and barns, and posts and rails for fences, and larger timber for bridges, all of which was, or soon would be, wanted in the improvements then commencing upon land bare of all buildings. Much of the country was one unbroken forest, the clearing of which was then begun and proceeded with until the required number of acres for agricultural purposes were completely denuded. For several years this was the only mill of its kind for miles around. Upon the fields so cleared and other fields, rye, wheat, buckwheat and even barley were raised in abundance, which for a time was ground by hand, but as the crops increased a grist mill was found necessary. There was such a mill at Soho, several miles away—too far for convenience over a road which was at its best only an unimproved path.

The first grist mill erected and operated in the present city was the grist mill of John Bradbury, at Delawanna, where the present Newark River road crossed Yantacaw river, across the road from the Waldrich Bleachery, which was built away back in 1698, and for many years the only mill of its kind in the county of Passaic. After Bradbury's death, about 1721, Abraham Berry conducted it for many years. Later it was turned into a paper mill and conducted as such by Bird, Hopkins & Whiting, who were succeeded by Warren and Melville Curtis. The now famous Whiting Paper Company is the successor of Bird, Hopkins & Whiting, and the proprietors of the equally famous "Ladies' Home Journal" began business here. They were succeeded by Joseph and Richard Kingsland, who continued it until about 1861, when fire destroyed the mill, which was never rebuilt. After the fire the Kingslands concentrated their business in their mill on Kingsland road. This Kingsland road mill is an old one, having been established by James Walls and John Walls, as a saw mill shortly after 1721, when they purchased the land partly in Clifton and partly in Nutley of John Bradbury. During the Revolutionary War, Kingsland road was not in existence, only a narrow lane led from River road to the mill. Kingsland road was legally laid out in 1786. The old stone house opposite the present mill was the homestead of Walls brothers, built in 1741, and for nearly a century owned by the Kingsland family. The Kingslands paper mill became well known and very popular. They did a big business and made lots of money, which, however, was lost in the great panic of 1873, and the property sold to pay debts. Since then the property has been





used for various purposes until purchased by White Spring Paper Company, which continues the business of making writing paper.

The Bradbury mill was the only one of its kind in this vicinity for twenty years, at the end of which time Gysbert Vanderhoef established a saw and grist mill at the southerly end of the present Westervelt avenue, for many years well known as Westervelt lane, so named after David A. Westervelt. This mill was located here as a convenience to the farmers of the neighborhood, who were increasing their crops of grain and wanted to avoid the long haul to the Bradbury mill, Delawanna. This new mill was established by Gysbert Vanderhoef about the year 1721, who erected a frame mill and a substantial Dutch stone house on a triangular piece of land given to him by his father-in-law, John E. Vreeland, whose daughter Margaretta he had married. The land was taken off the extreme end of lot No. 9, of Weasel Division. By deed dated May 1, 1736, Vanderhoef conveyed the property to Gerret Gerritse, after whose death, and in 1805, his only son and daughter conveyed the same to Ralph Doremus. Subsequently, and in the year 1825, David A. Westervelt became the owner, continuing to operate it as a grist mill 'til his death, October 28, 1875, after which his son, Richard A., conducted the business until his death, October 6, 1897, when further operations ceased and in 1905 the property was sold to Edward W. Jewett. It is now owned by C. Matt.

Farther up Weasel brook and at Athenia were two mill ponds operated by the Post family, one on each side of Claverack road. Both have disappeared. The Lackawanna railroad now runs through one of the ponds that furnished the power, but the old stone house of Richard Post still stands near the old pond. These were famous mills in their day and continued in business until all woods were denuded of their trees. They sawed all timber that was used in the construction of the Dundee dam canal and locks and mills.

*Distilleries*—During Colonial days and for half a century later there were many fruit orchards scattered over the country and fruit was so plentiful as to become a "drug on the market," to dispose of the surplus of which many distilleries were established, all operated by water power or hand power. At Allwood one such, known as Kenter's, was on the easterly side of the main road, several hundred feet north of Stone House Plains road, which was operated by hand and produced good stuff. Robert McCandel had a large one near Lake and Hope avenues, to reach which a lane was laid out from Lexington avenue, to "remain open forever, for the use of said McCandel and his heirs."

Simon Van Winkle's distillery on Weasel road, near Dundee avenue, because of its location, was perhaps the best known. He was succeeded by Stephen Bassett, a tanner. Over near the Notch, Philip Van Riper operated the best equipped distillery in that section of the county.

In what are now the cities of Passaic and Paterson were a number whereby all excess fruit and much of corn and rye were converted into rum, gin and the (afterwards) famous Jersey apple-jack.

Rum was made from molasses and gin and rye from Indian corn. Distillation was performed in stills made of wood, operated upon by steam. Previous to the Revolution distilleries were not taxed, but thereafter, as a means to raise money to support the Federal Government, two forms of taxes were imposed; one on the yearly capacity of the still, and the other on the strength of the spirit.

In those ancient days everybody drank spirits, which could be obtained not only at taverns, but country stores and grog shops. At the latter the price was two cents a glass, and at taverns six and a half cents



*The First Factory*—In the early days, many generations before the Paterson & Hamburg turnpike (now Main avenue) was laid out under its charter, granted by the State in 1806, there was a creek or stream of pure spring water which began at Pieterse's lane (Piaget avenue), between Main avenue and the Erie railway, running southerly to the present Washington avenue, where it turned westward and continued to within about 150 feet of Second street, where it again turned southerly and continued on the same course to Madison street, where it received the outflow of a fast flowing spring, then known as the Vreeland and subsequently as Clifton spring. Here it turned an easterly course, crossing the present Main avenue and continued almost to Florence avenue, where it changed its course southerly and continued the same to the old Weasel brook, into which its waters were discharged. At the present day, in the vicinity of Washington avenue, and above, after every material rain-storm and during wet seasons evidences of this old creek are not hard to find. The closing of the pipe formerly laid under and across the turnpike, when first built, was years ago for selfish purposes destroyed, resulting in the formation of a large lake on the Berg property, and (because of the filling in of Washington avenue) a smaller one on the Groocock land, where the water so collected remained until evaporated by the atmosphere and absorbed by the soil.

Previous to the construction of the turnpike through Clifton, there was a pond, fed by this creek, at the southeast corner of Garritse's lane (Clifton avenue), and the turnpike, through which the latter road afterwards ran, thus reducing its area. About this time one James Shepherd, a bleacher from Connecticut, desired to find a stream of pure spring water, and for that purpose hunted not only through that State, but over New Jersey as well. It was while thus engaged that he one day drove here from Newark. A chemical analysis of these waters showed their purity, and induced him to locate at this old pond, about the first day of May, in the year 1813, where he erected a dwelling house and factory. He was an efficient chemist, a practical bleacher of cotton goods and a most progressive man in many ways. His business grew. Orders came in faster than he could do them, owing to the old-fashioned method of nature's process, which took just so much time and could not be hurried. It annoyed him. He began to think that a quicker way might be found through the use of chemicals. He experimented, and to his joy and satisfaction found that chemical bleaching was equal to and quicker than the older natural method, and he adopted it, which proved a success. Clifton, therefore, had the very first factory in this State where cotton goods bleaching was done by chemicals, where these goods were beetled and finished for the New York market after the European style.

The coming of the turnpike ruined the pond and compelled removal in 1829. Mr. Shepherd finally settled in 1837 at Paterson, where he met success. About 1830 William P. Ackerman established a tannery in the cotton factory. He did a good business, tanning leather, for the sale of which he had a store in Paterson, where he went every business day in a covered wagon drawn by a white horse. While returning home quite late Wednesday night, November 21, 1838, he was held up on the Plank road (Main street), just north of Weasel driftway (Crooks avenue). His assailant climbed into the wagon, set upon and most cruelly and murderously beat Ackerman into insensibility, after which he robbed him of considerable cash that day received for land he had sold, besides his receipts from sales at the store. The assassin then escaped, although known to Ackerman, whose horse without a guiding hand went home with his insensible driver lying in the wagon. As stated above, Ackerman, then a husky man of only forty-six years of age, knew his assail-





ant, whom he recognized (although wearing a handkerchief over his face) as John S. Post, a young carpenter residing on the present Valley road, near the Notch, who had done some repairing for Ackerman and had then learned about the contemplated sale. The crime was so startling as to warrant the Governor in offering a reward in the follow proclamation:

\$200 REWARD.

PROCLAMATION BY WILLIAM PENNINGTON,  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Whereas it hath been made satisfactorily to appear to me, by the oath of a credible witness, that a most daring Highway Robbery was committed on the evening of the twenty-first day of November instant, by JOHN S. POST, on the person of William P. Ackerman, a peaceable citizen of this State, on the Turnpike Road between the Town of Paterson and the Village of Acquackanonk, in the County of Passaic, and that the said John S. Post is running at large.

Now I, William Pennington, Governor of the State of New Jersey, with a view to the just punishment of so high an offence, and by virtue of the power in me reposed by law, do, by these presents, require all good citizens of the State to aid in the apprehension and securing said John S. Post, and do offer a Reward of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for such apprehension, to be paid on conviction of the offender.

Given under my hand and the seal of said State, at the City of Trenton, the thirtieth day of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

WM. PENNINGTON.

By the Governor:

JAMES D. WESTCOTT, *Secretary of State.*

John S. Post is about 22 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, dark, ruddy complexion, large Roman nose, and has on a dark cloth frock coat and pantaloons, and wears his cravat with a single knot, with the ends at length. He is a Carpenter by trade.

Post was captured, tried and sentenced to State's Prison for fifteen years.

In addition to a tannery Ackerman operated a combined saw mill and grist mill at this place. While moving about among the machinery in his mills, he met with accidents which injured his legs and arms so severely as to make him a cripple for life. He was spoken of as the peer of forgetful men. On the day set for his wedding, all preparations had been made at the home of Adrian Van Houten, the bride's father, who resided on the Weasel road, near Dundee lake, the invited guests had assembled, many of them in conveyances, having come long distances, as Van Houten had relatives and acquaintances near and far, who came in large numbers to attend a wedding of the first order, to accommodate whom tables were set under trees in the door yard. Dominie Christian Z. Paulison was on hand, arrayed in his best, ready to begin the ceremony. All being ready and the appointed hour having arrived, the dominie went over to Van Houten and whispered in his ear something which caused him to leave the parlor in a hurry. He returned in a few minutes and whispered something to the minister who announced the absence of the groom, who was on his way there. But, alas! this was not the truth, although the dominie believed it to be. The strict truth was that the groom at that all important period of his life was hoeing potatoes oblivious to the occasion or invited guests, where messengers found him, hustled him to his boarding house, where he prepared himself and hastened to the wedding just one hour late. His excuse was he'd forgotten it.

On a later occasion he rode to the old church on horseback, something unusual, as he invariably walked. After service he walked home. Monday morning he missed his white horse and set out to look for the faithful animal, which had remained at the post where his master had tied him the previous evening. He always claimed that he was too busy thinking out big things as to have no time for trifles. He it was who laid out Ackerman lane (avenue) through the centre of his farm, located on east side of old Weasel road.



## CHAPTER V.

## DUNDEE DAM, LAKE RACE TRACK, GLACIER ROCK, ACTRESSES.

The stone used in the construction of the Dundee dam was obtained from various farms far and near; most of it in, upon and along Vreeland place. The top course came from the Gould farm, at a point about 400 feet west of Main avenue and the same distance north of Madeline avenue, where the hole left in the ground may still be seen. This was about 1858-59, since which time, although this cap stone has suffered the shock of the flow of the river, sometimes in ponderous volume for days at a time, and sustained the pounding of large ice cakes, trees, and in time of flood, buildings and various kind of heavy debris, it has never budged an inch and is to-day as solid as ever. It was constructed under the supervision of Joseph Scott, master builder, father of the editor of this work, who came here in 1858 to take charge of the building of the dam, water power, canal and locks.

In those days the dam was a wonder, being the biggest engineering feat performed in this section of the State and was visited by the people from distances.

At the laying of the cornerstone of Dundee dam, there was a grand celebration, Wednesday, April 20, 1859, of which the following account is taken from the "New York Herald" of the next day:

The little village of Passaic was in a furore of excitement on Wednesday on account of the day being set apart for the celebration of the laying of the corner stone of the Dundee Manufacturing Company's dam on the Passaic river.

The first charter granted to the Company was in 1832. The capital stock was limited to \$150,000. A regular organization was accomplished, a dam constructed, and a short canal dug on the Bergen side. This was followed by the erection of a small factory, subsequently converted into a sawmill. Shortly afterwards a canal was commenced on the other side of the river and constructed for about half a mile. The Company soon after became embarrassed; the dam was partly swept away; and after an expenditure of over \$40,000 the work was suspended in 1837.

The rights and privileges passed through various hands until the year 1858 when they were purchased by an association of capitalists in Trenton and Newark who shortly after procured the passage of a supplementary act authorizing them to improve the navigation of the Passaic river, designating the boundaries by canals on slack water navigation; also increasing the capital to \$650,000 for which purpose they might erect the necessary dams, locks, piers, etc.

The corporation was authorized to take possession of such lands as might be necessary for these objects but not for mill sites or other building purposes. A little over a year ago the Company completed the organization by electing Edward J. C. Atterbury, of Trenton, their president, Charles L. Pearson secretary and treasurer, and Colonel J. W. Allen, chief engineer. From careful surveys they showed that forty feet of fall existed between Paterson and tidewater. The works include—First, a dam which is to be sixteen feet in height and 420 in length. This will be of hewn stone laid in concrete cement and bolted to the solid rock which forms a foundation. Second, a main canal one mile and three-quarters in length, sixty feet wide, eighty-seven at top by seven in depth with a lock at the upper end. Third, a canal running nearly parallel with the other and meeting with it at a point seventeen hundred feet from the lower terminal.

Between these canals is a plot of ground one-third of a mile long and averaging 400 feet broad which has been laid out in blocks 100 feet in breadth as mill sites. The adjoining lands have been surveyed and laid out into streets. The Company own about 2000 of these lots. The quantity of land to be overflowed by the Dundee dam will be about seventy acres. The benefits to be derived from this great work are incalculable. First, the water power in such proximity to New York will make the work available for manufacturing purposes. Second, the manufactories will locate numerous families in the vicinity. Third, it will benefit commerce, and fourthly, the improvements will enable canal boats to reach the very head of the Passaic river.

It was to celebrate the completion of the canal and laying the corner stone of the dam that the parade was made on Wednesday and to give the event eclat Governor Newell was invited to act as chief of the ceremonies. In addition to the villagers who took part in the affair there were large numbers from New York, Jersey City, Trenton, Newark and Paterson





At half past one o'clock p. m. the procession formed in front of Folger's Hotel, the Governor having his headquarters there. [This building was torn down a few years ago; it was located on Main avenue, Passaic, a short distance above the County bridge.] The Passaic Light Guard numbering thirty-five muskets, Captain W. J. Folger, accompanied by the National Brass Band of Hackensack, drew up in front of the hotel, and when the Governor appeared received him with open ranks and arms at present. The grand marshal then gave orders to take up the line of march for the works which were three miles distant. The band and military headed the line, followed by Governor Newell mounted on a fine black horse accompanied by Colonel Allen. Next came a large cavalcade of horsemen and a long line of carriages bearing many of the influential men of New Jersey. The route of march was along and through the bed of the canal to allow the visitors a good view of the work.

As the procession passed numerous gangs of workmen drew up in line and cheered the Governor. Previous to the laying of the corner stone prayer was offered by Rev. J. Pascal Strong of Passaic, after which Mr. Atterbury produced a tin box to be deposited under the stone—giving any one present an opportunity to deposit any mementoes they may choose. The announcement was warmly responded to by many present, and soon the box was filled. The box was then deposited in its place under the stone which measured four feet by six. The Governor then gave the stone three blows with mason's trowel and declared the stone laid. After a brief address by the Governor the procession reformed and marched back to the hotel where an elegant collation had been prepared for those who had taken an active part in the ceremonies.

In days agone this Dundee lake sheet of water was the scene and centre for sport at all seasons, to which individuals alone or in groups came to enjoy the sport which its great expanse of water and inviting shores invited—in the years when its waters were pure and clear and the home of bass, shad and other fish which then were caught in large numbers.

In winter, when skating was good, great number of people flocked there, some going afoot, some in wagons, some in sleighs and some in a farmer's sled, upon which a wagon body would be placed, into which many boys and girls were packed like sardines. These last seemed to come only at night, when along the shores bonfires blazed until midnight. In addition to ordinary skating, there were match games of hockey and other tests of skill on the ice.

Very often these night scenes were not only enchanting, but very hilarious, particularly when songs were sung accompanied by the strains of the fiddles of two negroes, who came nightly from their homes in "Bear's Nest," hoping to receive tips, as recompense.

Some night when the moon shone bright there would be hundreds of skaters from far and near.

From skating attention was given to boating and kindred sports. There were many regattas held here, witnessed by thousands, besides numerous canoe, boat, scull and other races, preceding which those who were to participate spent much time preparing for these contests.

The late John M. Morse, Passaic's beloved poet, was so impressed with this beautiful lake as to say:

But, driving on, we quickly reach the lake,  
Where boating parties much enjoyment take;  
They grasp their oars and row, or, if they please,  
Hoist their sails and catch the passing breeze;  
Or, if inclined to catch a string of fish,  
They throw their hooks and gratify their wish;  
Or, if more leisurely inclined they glide  
With slightest stroke of oar from side to side.

But what a change from those days to that of to-day, when its dark, black filthy waters, with all kinds of debris floating thereon, are not only repulsive to the sight, but the odors arising herefrom are nauseating and sickening, making of this once beautiful lake a cesspool for all the filth of Paterson.





There is, however, comfort in the thought that by 1924 the trunk sewer will restore it to natural conditions.

In this vicinity, forty-five years ago, Mr. Scotto C. Nash, established extensive green houses and filled the pond in front of his house (still called by his name) with beautiful lilies, which remained popular until the pollution of the waters of the lake and pond killed the lilies and ruined his business, causing him heavy losses.

Older residents of Clifton remember the busy days of the race track at the northwest corner of Main and Piaget avenues, into which a switch was constructed from the main line of the Erie. The grandstand accommodating ten thousand persons was not big enough to hold extra thousands who had to stand within the circle of the track. Every racing day the Erie ran several ten-car trains from New York, every car being packed, even to the platforms. Thousands more came on foot, horseback, in carriages and farm wagons. Like the movies of to-day, everybody attended the races. Those were busy days for merchants within two miles of the race track, where was employed an army, not only of horses, but men and women, requiring large supplies of feed, food and beverages to keep them "fair (not too), fat and fit."

Among the spectators, nearly all who followed race tracks and gambling for existence, were many women, too many boys, and staid old fathers who attended regularly, and reproved by friends, offered amusing excuses, all except that of the attempt to quietly win money, and then boast of it to friends. But the day to win never came.

It was owing to a deacon that the track was closed. Under the name of Clifton Jockey Club, which was incorporated February 21, 1891, the race track property was acquired March 7, 1891, from George H. Engeman, William A. Engeman and John J. Engeman, who were, in fact, the club and had owned the track since 1886 and conducted races there. Inasmuch as betting races was against the law, Engeman attempted to have the law repealed and might have succeeded but for a New England dominie in the person of Dr. Philo F. Leavens, of the Passaic Presbyterian Church, who began to talk and preach against the whole business. He drew up a remonstrance against the repeal of the law and had it signed not only by his own people, but those not connected with his church, securing personally hundreds of signatures with which he in company with other men went to Trenton and appeared before the Legislature and said something, and then returned home. The law was not repealed. Dr. Leavens appealed by letter to Judge Dixon, asking for the indictment of the whole gang. On January 6, 1891, Judge Dixon instructed the grand jury to indict, which it did on the 9th, but the indictment was quashed same day. A new indictment was found January 19, after instructions from the judge of the 15th. This led to the complete closing of the track January 19, 1891, without notice to the thousands who stormed the gates that afternoon, insisting that the races go on. But they didn't. On January 29, 1891, George H. Engeman was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000. Without a tremor he handed five \$1,000 bills to the clerk and walked out. He never indulged in the sport here after this, but transferred his stables to Long Island. For twenty years thereafter the premises have been neglected and everything turned to ruin.

In 1904 the Driving Park Association was incorporated with the intention of developing good trotting horses, but never accomplished anything and abandoned the business after few months' trial. The city of Clifton purchased the entire property for school purposes in 1920 for less than Engeman paid in 1886. He paid \$115,000.



Of noted people who have either owned property and resided, or simply owned property, in Clifton, there were: Celestine Aimee Tronchon, known as Marie Aimee, a famous French actress who some thirty years ago captivated New York theatre-goers with her splendid acting and most charming personality. She owned a tract of thirty-five acres between Lake View avenue and the Erie railway, South Fourth and South Seventh streets, upon which she contemplated erecting a villa in the midst of a beautiful park. But she never lived to carry out her plans. At the close of the theatrical season in 1887, she returned to her home in Paris, France, to enjoy an annual vacation, and where during the night of September 20, 1887, she was stricken with a fatal illness of only a few hours duration. Her lawyer was sent for at midnight. He came and hastily drew her will, which says it was signed by her at 1 o'clock a. m., on the 30th day of September, 1887. She died fifteen minutes later. Even as she had lived, so she died—in tragedy. But the will, drawn hastily, failed to dispose of this property, which escheated to the State. By an act of the Legislature, approved April 21, 1896, there was conveyed all right, title and interest of the State therein to Charles E. O'Connor, a New York lawyer, who represented the estate.

Sarah Bishop was another noted actress, who while still on the stage married a noted banker of New York, T. Brigham Bishop, and after their honeymoon came to reside on what is now known as Normandie Park, overlooking Dundee lake, where they resided from May, 1886, to May, 1894, when they sold the premises to Charles Curie and removed to New York. Both are now deceased. When they resided here the place was the handsomest of any in the neighborhood, which they spared no expense to embellish. Since their day it has been shorn of its beauties not only, but degenerated into a notorious roadhouse, whose questionable practices of a salacious character have often appeared in newspapers.

Lying beside Weasel brook, near the old road of that name, within Passaic's Fourth Ward Park, is a large glacier rock of a score of tons weight, whose presence there is credited to the glacial period when the country, from the far northern regions to the mountains of New Jersey and New York, was covered with ice hundreds of feet thick, in which rocks of all sizes were tightly frozen. After the elapse of thousands of years, gradual solar heat began to melt the ice and upon the water thus generated this large ice sheet began to move toward the Atlantic ocean, still holding the various rocks within its frozen grasp, which the sun's heat gradually relaxed, until, unable to hold longer, that grasp was released, allowing the rocks to fall to the earth, after a voyage, in some cases, of hundreds of miles. So voyaged this rock, where to-day it lies as it fell thousand and thousands of years ago. Its composition is that of flint and harder than any rock of this region, whose origin was in the mountains far to the north. For another long period after being settled in its present position, its exposed surface received a lasting polish from the grinding of the immense ice sheet with stones and trees imbedded therein, as the same relentlessly passed over it, doing its best to annihilate it; but in vain. The rock withstood all attacks and to-day is as serene, solid and impregnable as ever.

Of this rock Mr. John M. Morse, Passaic's leading poet, who composed many poems of a local nature, was always much impressed, which led him to write several verses thereon, as may be seen in his volume of poetry entitled "Memories of Childhood and Other Poems," New York, The Lafayette Press, 1895, in which he says:





Just off the public way, and near a brook,  
 There lies a stone, at which we often look;  
 And 'tis a stone not native to the place;  
 Whence it came there's not the slightest trace.  
 On low and level ground, it rests alone;  
 A boulder true—that solitary stone!  
 Which oft has been as food for thought,  
 Reminding us of changes Time has brought!

And what thy history, thou boulder old?  
 We've often wondered if it could be told.  
 Didst leave thy native crag in far-off land,  
 And shape thy course at Heaven's high command?  
 Wast thou by force from lofty mountain riven?  
 Wast thou detached by thunderbolt of heaven?  
 Did heaving earthquake wrench thee from thy place?  
 And lay thee prostrate at the mountain's base?

Did moving glacier carry thee away  
 And toss thee up and down, as if in play,  
 And polish all thy corners, by the force  
 With which it kept its slow resistless course?  
 Didst thou at last as if in triumph ride  
 For miles and miles upon an icy tide?  
 And did that mass of ice at last give way,  
 And drop thee here, upon a bed of clay?

How many years have come and gone since then?  
 When didst thou locate here? O tell us when!  
 Since thou hast occupied thy lowly bed,  
 Wild ferns and mosses first a carpet spread  
 Around thy base, thus showing signs of life,  
 When all before was elemental strife;  
 Then taller grasses nodded in the wind  
 And creeping woodbine firmly round thee twined.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### WARS.

*The Revolutionary War*—When the rumblings of trouble with the mother country first began, a meeting of men from all over the then county of Essex was held in Newark, June 11, 1774, at which a committee of nine was appointed for the purpose, among others, of corresponding with and ascertaining the views of other colonies upon the public questions agitating the people at that time. Among the nine was Henry Gerritse, a lifelong resident of the present Clifton, who suggested that a committee to watch all persons who were willing to obey the obnoxious laws be elected by the voters of each township, for which purpose an open-air meeting was held on the old Acquackanonk bridge, December 12, 1774; a very cold but clear day, which caused Dr. Roche, also of Clifton, to facetiously remark: "The intensity of the fires within us will tend to keep the cold without us." At this meeting the subject was discussed, but because of the importance of the action proposed request was made for plenty of time to talk it over with neighbors and get their interest and support. The meeting adjourned to May 3, 1775, at the tavern of James Leslie, at the entrance to the bridge.

The intervening four months had changed the sentiment of the farmers, who instead of appointing spies, as it were, passed a resolution of considerable length which, while expressing alarm at the measures adopted by Parliament, professed their allegiance to the Crown. Although condemning the acts of that body, believing that it would conduce to the restoration of the liberties of America, should the Colonies enter into a joint agreement not to purchase or



use any articles of British manufacture, and that this township would be most willing to join with other municipalities in promoting the formation of a congress of deputies to be sent from each of the Colonies in order to form a plan of union. In furtherance of this object a committee of twenty-three was elected, among whom from the present city of Clifton were: Michael Vreeland, chairman; Henry Garritse, Peter Garritse, John Berry, Captain Francis Post, Thomas Post, Jacob Van Riper, Henry Post, Jr., Dr. Walter De Graw, John Pier, Jacob Garritse, Jacob Vreeland, Stephen Ryder and Abraham Van Riper. Dr. Roche was chosen clerk. In the preceding June, Henry Garritse had the honor of being appointed on the county committee of nine men—the only one for the present entire county of Passaic. All but one of the above became marked men and suffered loss of property during the Revolution.

That one was Stephen Ryder, who turned traitor to the cause, became a Tory and joined the British forces. He did not, however, reside or own any property within the limits of Clifton, but near Garret Rock, Paterson.

It is a pleasure to record that every member of that committee who resided within the bounds of the present city of Clifton remained loyal to the cause of American liberties, for the success of which each gave generously of time and means. All were as true steel.

To the credit of Clifton, with the possible exception of only one family, it may be said that she sheltered no Tories.

Although no battles were fought within her borders, she witnessed the passing of troops in large numbers, both of the British and American, which began in November, 1776, when the former, 6,000 strong, under Cornwallis, Howe and other famous generals, after fording the river, encamped on the farm of Abraham S. Vreeland, while the officers took quarters in Vreeland's house, still standing on the westerly side of old Weasel road. From here they proceeded down that road to Passaic, where they encamped on the present City Hall Park.

Immediately after fording, on November 26, 1776, the red coats visited every farm not only along Weasel road, but as they continued their march went out of their way, even so far as the Notch, sparing nothing upon which they could seize. Among the articles stolen by them appear women's underwear and clothing. Why men should take such is explained by the fact that a lot of women and grown girls followed the army, assisting the soldiers in their cooking and other ways, without pay, but who were rewarded by these stolen goods, which as a rule were not only valuable but useful.

This vicinity being the "garden spot" of New Jersey, where fruit, vegetables, grain, hay, feed and farm products existed in abundance, and which at this time had all been harvested and gathered for winter, and as the army was at the present time greatly in need of supplies, it is not to be wondered at that advantage was taken of this most excellent opportunity, even if it did take time, which was of no importance just now, because the opinion among them was that it was a small matter to capture Washington and his army, who expected nothing better than defeat. With these consoling thoughts we can imagine with what pleasure they enjoyed their days, looting and stealing, while living on the fat of the land. From a list of claims filed for damages committed by the British at that time, we find the following:

Among the first was the farm of Henry C. Doremus, situate on the west bank of the Passaic river, now Dundee lake, near the present Crooks avenue, then called the Wesel driftway. This place was the ancestral farm of the Doremus family. Although Mr. Doremus, it is said, was home at the time and objected, the redcoats paid no attention to his objections, and helped themselves to the following goods and chattels of the value as stated:



	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
6 sheep .....	4	10	0	1 pr. new shoes and brass buckles	0	6	0
1 small swine .....	4	16	0	2 prs. trousers .....	0	10	0
Pair leathern breeches, with 14 silver buttons .....	2	12	0	11 prs. men's stockings.....	3	17	0
Pair leathern breeches, partly worn .....	0	12	0	1 pr. linen breeches and waistcoat .....	0	8	0
Watch coat .....	0	15	0	1 waistcoat, party worn .....	0	4	0
2 watch coats, party worn.....	1	10	0	4 homespun shirts .....	2	0	0

Not satisfied with necessities, the British soldiers went over to the home of Ann Doremus and helped themselves to:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
15 sheep .....	11	4	0	1 linen sheet .....	0	12	0
1 psalm book, bound and trimmed with silver .....	1	10	0	1 pr. women's shoes .....	0	6	0
1 silver teaspoon .....	0	5	0	1 pr. silver sleeve buttons.....	0	4	0
1 cloak, party worn .....	0	12	0	1 long gown .....	2	0	0
				1 pr. pillow cases .....	0	8	0

What the soldiers wanted the psalm book, teaspoon, woman's shoes and gown and sleeve buttons for it is hard to tell. The presumption is, however, that when they saw such riches they descended to real thievery and took them because there was no one to hinder.

No far from the Doremus farm—about a quarter of a mile—was the homestead of Theunis Speer, which stood on the opposite side of the road, between the road and the river, and very near the river, which at that time was a small stream. When the Dundee dam was built, this house was submerged, and still stands out there, covered by the waters of the lake.

Mr. Speer was very sick at the time. His son, Henry, tried to reason with the redcoats and begged of them not to take anything, because the family was too poor to spare them. But he might have saved his breath, because while he was pleading the soldiers were helping themselves, and, as to add insult to injury, they compelled Speer's colored man to go along with them to serve throughout the war. The following were taken from Speer:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1 negro, about 30 years of age...	80	0	0	1 waistcoat, half worn, 10s., pair			
3 new shirts, 36s., 4 new shirts, 48s. ....	80	0	0	new shoes, 7-6 .....	0	17	0
1 cambric handkerchief, half worn .....	0	4	0	6 new peweter tablespoons.....	0	3	0
				1 lb. tea and canister.....	0	6	0

After leaving Speer's, a visit was made to the Bassett home, which stood between the road and the river, within a few yards of the fording place, from which was taken the following articles belonging to Ann Bassett:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
6 long gowns .....	9	0	0	1 velvet coat .....	4	0	0
100 ells homespun linen.....	13	15	0	2 bags .....	0	6	0
12 new shifts and fine sleeves....	9	0	0	1 mare, six years old.....	20	0	0
1 counterpane .....	2	10	0				

While Mrs. Bassett, a widow, alone and unaided, struggled in vain to prevent the taking of her goods, another party was at the residence of John Elias Vreeland, near the fording place, whose barns, not house, stood by the roadside, while the house was on the river bank, 500 feet away. From him were taken: One fourteen-hand, five-year-old bay horse, £20; one fifteen-hand, four-year-old stallion, £30; one load of good hay, £1. From this it is very evident that horses and hay were preferred. Nothing was taken from the house or sheds that stood beside the barn. There was a cause. Horses were very scarce, and as the enemy could not buy they lost no opportunity to steal.





Encouraged by their success here they went to John Vreeland's, Weasel road, where they secured:

	£	s.		£	s.
1 horse .....	20		3 hives bees .....	3	
1 horse .....	10		16 shirts and shifts @ 6/.....	4	16
7 cows with calf @ £6.....	42		11 pillow cases, now, @ 9/ per pair.	2	9
4 pigs, fatted for killing.....	6		2 new sheets @ 14/ .....	1	8
9 sheep @ 15/ .....	6	15			
3 barrels cyder @ 12/ .....	1	16		98	4

This same party evidently went from Vreeland's to the boat house of Peter Garritse, which stood between the road from the fording place, and the river, near where the outlet from what is known as Nash pond then entered the river and purloined: "New set Pettenger sails, £25." Garritse resided in a fine stone house, overlooking the present Dundee lake, where now stands the vacant large, square, wooden house which was the homestead of the late Mr. Scotto C. Nash. Garritse was a man of means and possessed, as did others of his class, a pleasure sailboat, called a pettiauger, or periauger.

It should be borne in mind that there was no Dundee dam or lake here until for more than half a century after the Revolution. The river, a narrow, shallow stream, ran near the Bergen county side, and the Weasel road, now Lexington avenue, or Dundee drive, ran along the river some 300 feet more or less east of the present road. Along this road between it and the river were several houses. The first one being that then occupied by the widow Basset, and one of the first to be looted. This became known as the Simmons homestead, and was then owned by Peter Simmons, who had been a deep sea sailor, as related above in the description of lot No. 6 of the Weasel Division. Reference to the Basset family will be found above in the description of lot, also No. 6, but in Gotham Division.

North of Basset-Simmons were the residences, along the river, of Cornelius S. Michael and Peter H. Vreeland, which were visited. From the former were taken:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
2 loads of cabbage .....	1	15	4	buttons .....	2	10	0
6 turkeys .....	0	15	0	New broadcloth breeches and coat	9	0	0
10 barn fowls 10/ .....	0	10	0				
1 pr. buckskin breeches, silver					14	10	4

Michael unwillingly parted with: One watch, £8; two horses, fourteen hands high, 12 years old, £18; one set of geers, £1¼. Total, £37¼.

From Peter they extracted: One new castor hat, £1, 10s.; one silk handkerchief, 7s.; one silk handkerchief, 5s.; two linen handkerchiefs, at 2s., 6d., 5s.; one check apron, 4s. Total, 2£, 11s.

Having finished with these the redcoats started for Acquackanonk bridge, over the Weasel road, making their first stop at the house of Pawl Powlson, still standing, remodelled, at the north corner of Kip avenue, which had been erected by him, whose old cornerstone, inscribed "P. P. 1713," may be seen in the wall at the side of the front door. What a story this stone might tell! It has been a silent witness to the customs of Colonial days. Saw the passing before it of the farmer's "coach," a wagon whose seats were home-made, straight-back kitchen chairs, upon which sat an entire family on their journey to the "Old First" Reformed Church, "Quacnic," as fast as the speed of a team of young oxen permitted. This would be a regular Sunday scene. During the week there would pass before it many farmers from miles around, all of whom knew the stone which came to be a landmark and did not escape the scrutiny of the soldiers on this occasion.



Mrs. Powlson made a note of what happened. This writing came into the possession of the late Richard Outwater, of Passaic, a relative, who repeated its substance, as follows: At noon, November 26, 1776, Mrs. Powlson was in the house with her five-year-old son Richard, while Mr. Powlson stood at the well, near the front gate, watching the movements of many of the 6,000 British troops who were spread out back of the house to about the present Erie railroad. She saw seven men, one an officer, come through the gate and approached Mr. Powlson. The officer charged Mr. Powlson with harboring certain privates who were to be court-martialed. Mr. Powlson denied it, whereupon the officer insisted he had and that he was going to get them, and giving an order to the six men, started for the house. In terror, Mrs. Powlson grabbed up little Richard and ran to the attic, where they remained in hiding until dark, when they came down stairs. In the meantime, the soldiers had explored the cellar only, and of course found no deserters, but got what they went for: quantities of edibles and Jersey applejack, which they carried away.

After fording the river the 6,000 British encamped in the field of Abraham Vreeland and Paul Powlson, as above stated, where they remained that day and night (November 26, 1776). These fields remain to-day as they were then. The heaps of stones now there were of the stones used by the soldiers as stoves, to do their cooking. The location may easily be found to-day. It is north of the barn connected with the stone house at the northwest corner of Kip avenue and the old Weasel road, and to the west of Vreeland's frame house, still standing, on the old road about 300 feet north of Kip avenue.

Adjoining this camping field was the residence of Morenus Garritse, who was an ardent supporter of the fight for freedom. His wife Peggy was not only his equal, but outspoken, brave and daring, with a tongue that could cut quick and deep. During the stay of the British army here, the enemy took various ways of getting into her house without force, which was not used, as her husband had been kind in allowing officers to use his barn, when she objected to their presence in the house.

One Vreeland living along the river, and the only Tory here, was engaged to go there and find out if any deserter was being secreted. He got as far as the Dutch door and knocked. Mrs. Garritse appeared and opened the upper half to see Vreeland, who greeted her with: "How do you do? I'm glad to see you." At this point and very much in a rage she interrupted: "Well, I'm not, nor any other cursed Tory. You make tracks away from this door right away, or I'll help you with this," and she held up a musket four feet long. He left. Some hours later, disguised as a peddler, he reappeared. She went to the door and upon seeing a peddler who had set his pack on the doorstep, where he stood with his back to the door, she quickly opened the upper half of the door, lifted the pack inside and closed the door with a bang, calling out in Dutch: "You can't fool me Clas (Nicholas). I'll keep this to help our cause along, and you go along home." After this he gave up visiting her.

From Paul Powlson were taken:

	£	s.		£	s.
1 sorrel stallion, 12 years old.....	12		1 load hay .....	1	
1 bay horse, 14 years old.....	10		2 sheets 20/, 2 blankets 18/.....	1	18
1 saddle 20/, 2 sheep 24/.....	2	4			
12 bushels oats at 2/6 .....	1	10		28	12

He made no claim for the food taken. Proceeding thence to the residence of Garret Van Riper, Weasel road, the redcoats drove off with: Two bay horse, five years old, £30; negroe man, £80.





Even the tools of Adrian J. Post, a carpenter on Weasel road, went over to the enemy, viz.:

	£	s.		£	s.
Hand saw 12/, pannel saw 10/....	1	2	16 bushels of rye.....	3	4
Hand saw 10/, sash saw 6/.....	16		1 pail 3/, 3 knives and forks.....	6	0
Compass saw 3/, 6 chisels 6/.....	9		Morning gown .....	2	2
2 pr. 1-inch matched plows.....	14		Calimanco gown .....	1	
1 inch chisel, 1 large gauge.....	3		Coverlit 10/, pr. pillow cases 8/....	18	
1 chair, 1 smoothing plane.....	8		2 silk handkerchiefs, worn .....	12	
Iron pot 8/, Holland fiddle 1/10...	1	18	2 pair stockings .....	6	
250 chestnut rails .....	3	15	Pair worsted stockings .....	6	
50 5-hole posts .....	1	5	Pair worsted stockings, worn.....	4	
2 calves, 8 months old.....	3	0			

Henry Garritse, Washington's adviser for these parts, who was subsequently appointed one of three commissioners to receive all claims for these very losses, parted with:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1 mare, 8 years old .....	16			500 shingles .....	2		
500 rails @ 40 a hundred.....	10			50 bushels Indian corn .....	10		
100 posts .....	3	6	8	2 tons English hay .....	6		

But this was only a commencement and Garritse, who raised horses for the market, of which he had a dozen always on hand, was a marked man to be visited again, as noted hereafter.

Jacob Vreeland parted with:

	£	s.		£	s.
1 mare, 4 yrs.; 1 mare, 6 yrs. old..	50		5 calves .....	10	
3 horses, 7 yrs. old.....	62		Bedding and 2 rugs.....	20	
1 horse, 6 yrs. old.....	12		3 swords 30/, bullet mould 6/.....	1	16
2 working steers .....	20		2 pairs stockings .....	1	
2 saddles, 2 bridles .....	8		20 ells tow cloth 60/, milk tub 8/..	3	8
1 wagon .....	17		2 aprons and short gown.....	18	
21 sheep .....	21		5 caps and handkerchiefs .....	1	
2 sets of gears .....	2				

With this amount and variety they seemed satisfied, although it did not include all Vreeland had. When this was discovered by an officer, he hurried after the army, which was then encamped in the present City Hall Park, Passaic, and gave orders to return to Vreeland's for more the next day, resulting in the following additional loot:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
9 hives of honey .....	9			600 sheaves of oats .....	5	5	
5 barrels of cyder .....	4			500 sheaves of wheat .....	5		
13 gallons of metheglin .....	2	12		2 shirts, 2 pairs stockings.....	2	16	
30 bush. turnips 30/, 3 of potatoes				3 handkerchiefs .....	0	10	
7/6 .....	1	17	6	8 shirts .....	4	16	
100 cabbage heads .....	1	5		1 gun .....	2	0	0
50 barn fowls and 7 geese.....	1	4		Cash .....	4	8	0
6 tons English hay .....	9						

The last place visited was that of Adrian A. Post, corner Weasel road and the present Lake street, where the party obtained:

	£	s.		£	s.
Black mare, 9 years old.....	25		300 weight wheat flower .....	3	
Brown mare, 5 years old.....	20		700 weight rye flower .....	3	10
Brown gelding, 7 years old.....	20		25 bags .....	3	15
Set of wagon gears, worn.....	1	15	150 weight of pork.....	1	17
2 tons English hay .....	4				
10 bush. Indian corn .....	2				
				84	12



The looting was continued through the present city of Passaic and resumed in the present city of Clifton, for an account of which see Delawanna in this work.

The scarcity of horses and cattle led to further raids the next year. One such was in September, 1777, when three raiding parties were sent from New York. One, under General Clinton, with 200 Provincials and forty-one marines, came to the present Robertsford from Fort Lee. A second, under Brigadier-General Campbell, proceeded to and captured Newark, disarmed the inhabitants and prevented them from retreating to this place for safety. A third, under Captain Drummond, with two cannon and 250 recruits of the Seventy-first Regiment, arrived at a point on the easterly side of Passaic river, opposite Belleville. Their objective point was Acquackanonk bridge (as Passaic was then known). After spending the night of June 12, encamped on the Cadmus farm, at the present head of the Dundee dam, on River road, Robertsford, Clinton's forces the next day crossed the river to this side and marched down the present Weasel road, Lexington avenue, Prospect street, Main avenue, to the bridge. The same day Campbell came up the River road from Newark, while Drummond followed the Bergen shore of the river, likewise to the bridge, where the three met. All had been active in their raiding expeditions in which they had been so successful that by the time they reached the bridge they had sixty horses, twenty-six hogs, many wagons, 400 head of cattle, besides other booty, including wearing apparel and household goods.

The farmers' wives and children had been unable to resist the raids of the British and were compelled to part with many valuable articles, including necessities, and to see their best cattle driven off to be added to the herd for slaughter. Unfortunately, most of the men were off to the war, of which fact the British took advantage and found little resistance to their raid. There was, of course, some resistance, and an eye witness writing of the occurrence says that much firing was heard during the day from the guns of the farmers who dared to take parting shots at the thieves, many of whom were wounded. After spending the night here, the British left the next day for Fort Lee with their booty.

Among the families raided by Clinton was that of the widow of Dr. Nicholas Roache, who at the time of his death was a surgeon in the Southern Battery, Second Regiment, Essex county. She was living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morenus Garritse, who resided in a house on the westerly side of Weasel road overlooking the present Dundee lake, nearly opposite Randolph avenue (the road leading to Dundee dam).

I take the following from a list of stolen property made by her and now before me: One teakettle, one scarlet short coat, eight fine linen sheets, eight coarse linen sheets, twelve pair pillow cases, three bags, three silk handkerchiefs, one gun, eight shifts and shirts, five pairs stockings, case of amputating and trepanning instruments of the best quality and two cases of incision instruments valued at thirty pounds (\$150); suit of superfine broadcloth clothes; superfine white broadcloth waistcoat with silver lace, seven ruffled shirts of fine linen, four cambric stocks, six pairs of worsted and linen stockings for men, one superfine broadcloth coat, one silver mounted sword, one large trunk, one medium chest, medicines of all sorts, twenty-four geese. The most of these belonged to the doctor, the best dressed man hereabouts. The whole valued at \$600.

At the same time the following was taken from the widow's father, Mr. Garritse: One yoke of oxen, one horse, one new coat and scarlet vest, six sheets, three pair of stockings. All valued at fifty pounds.





From Garritse's place they descended upon John Enoch Vreeland, who resided on the river shore, a short distance below the present Dundee dam, and there made the best haul of any hereabouts, taking: Five steers, seven horses, one Barcelona handkerchief, seven silver teaspoons, one surtout coat, one pair buckskin breeches, silver buttons, one swanskin waistcoat, twelve pair woolen stockings, four checked handkerchiefs, four checked aprons, one needle-worked pocketbook and cash, twenty shillings, eight pillow cases, one Dutch testament and the psalms, one Latin Bible, one coverlet and infant's apparel, one negro girl, fourteen years old, valued at sixty pounds; one negro man, twenty-five years old, valued at eighty-five pounds.

These raids in Weasel and within a radius of about half a mile netted: Seven negro men, one negro girl, twenty-five cows, eleven calves, twenty oxen, and a goodly herd of horses, described as: Colts, two; geldings, five; altered, forty; mares, twenty; stallions, five; besides fifty-five sheep, ten hogs, and scores of chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, together with twenty tons of "good English hay," by which it is described, and five bee hives, chuck full of honey, to which sweet article references would be found in one Dutch and one Latin Bible that were included in the list of articles taken, as well as two Dutch psalm books, which the English would find difficult to read understandingly, if at all.

What has been recounted above of the Revolutionary War applies only to Weasel, being that section adjacent to the road of that name. Other scenes and incidents of the war which were witnessed and enacted in other sections of the present city are set forth herein under Allwood, Delawanna, The Notch, etc., titles to form a connected history of which it will be necessary to consult the history of Passaic in this work (volume i), under the title of Wars.

*Civil War*—During the period of this conflict the territory included in the present cities of Passaic and Clifton and portions of the city of Paterson were known as township of Acquackanonk, whose young men responded to President Lincoln's calls for troops. Their names will be found in the history of Passaic above referred to in a general way, but under the titles of the various sections of Clifton above given, special mention is made of her heroes. In the opinion of the editor Delawanna was the honor section to which the reader is referred.

At the present time Clifton has among her residents a survivor of the Civil War and its sufferings in the person of John P. Kingsland, now past eighty-five years of age, who settled here in 1922, sixty years previous to which he was a truck farmer in Wallington. In the spring of 1863, while he was busy with the plow, word came to Mr. Kingsland that his two brothers in Iowa had enlisted. He would wait no longer and he enlisted December 18 of that year at Goshen, New York, for service in Company B, 124th New York Volunteer Infantry. The regiment went out 1,500 strong and came back the following summer with 500 wounded. "It was cut up for fair" in the Virginia Wilderness, according to the aged veteran.

Near Todd's Tavern, in the Wilderness, Mr. Kingsland was wounded in the right hand. His officers ordered him back, but he refused to quit. A shot in the right leg felled him. He was captured and taken to Libby prison, near Richmond. When the prison at Andersonville, Georgia, was completed, he was moved there, where he remained for 314 days. Description of life in the prison was vividly portrayed by Mr. Kingsland. One pint of raw corn meal a day was given the prisoners for subsistence. The men had to eat grass to keep alive. Men died at the rate of 175 a day. Mr. Kingsland was so ill near the close of the conflict that he was given a parole. This was on March 15,





1865. He spent some time in a hospital at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and was honorably discharged on May 5, 1865. He returned to Wallington immediately and built up his weakened body.

*Spanish-American War*—Two men of the Delawanna section of the present city of Passaic were among the thirty composing old Company D that left Passaic, June 20, 1898, for Sea Girt, where they were examined, fitted with uniforms and despatched to Florida, whence they expected any day to sail for Cuba. But they got no further, as the sudden collapse of the Spaniards obviated the need of any more troops, and these lusty fighters came home to wait twenty years for the next war.

*World War*—True to the principles for which the earlier settlers of Clifton fought in the days of '76, the men of Clifton required no urging to come forth and battle for liberty; not alone for their country, as their forefathers had fought, but for the whole world. Inasmuch as Clifton had no recruiting station, her young men went to Passaic station and enlisted. Their names, fully identified as of Clifton, may be found in the list of service men set forth in full in the history of Passaic (volume i) in this work, under the title of Wars.

In her war work activities, Clifton kept pace with sister communities, as the editor is informed, but repeated attempts to secure correct details from the person who had charge of the war drives and Red Cross work failed to elicit any information. The only information he has is contained in the following circular distributed promiscuously:

Among the authorized Red Cross activities Clifton Chapter has undertaken only those for which there exists in this community a real and otherwise unfilled need, this being a fundamental rule of all Red Cross operations. Accordingly, chief among its undertakings has been service to disabled veterans of the World War and their families.

There are in this community 60 ex-service men of this classification. Of this number 55 have received some Red Cross service through Clifton Chapter; 30 obtaining assistance in straightening out complications or delay in connection with government compensation; three being assisted in obtaining hospitalization or vocational training; five receiving financial assistance, totaling \$144.12 for themselves or family to tide them over a time of need; and four receiving one of many forms of friendly assistance not classified above.

There are maintained by Clifton Chapter and the Anti-Tuberculosis League two Public Health nurses, who during the last year made 3359 professional visits in this community, ministering to 553 patients. A Dental Clinic at which 125 children were treated is maintained by the Clifton Chapter. Clifton Chapter maintains constant preparedness for disaster relief, which at any time may prove of imperative necessity right here in Clifton City.

Answer the Annual Red Cross Roll Call, November 11 to 24, and make possible the continuance and expansion of these vital Red Cross operations in our own community.

Financial statement of Clifton Chapter, American Red Cross. Expenditures, year ended September 30, 1921—Service to veterans of the World war and their families, \$144.12; public health nursing, \$1,762.46; operation of dental clinic, \$539.65; activities not listed above, \$387.18; administration, \$247.43; total, \$3,080.84; total receipts, \$5,136.73. What current year's work will cost—Service to veterans of the World War and their families, \$150.00; public health nursing, \$3,000.00; day nursery, \$1,500.00; activities not listed above, \$200.00; administration, \$300.00; total, \$5,150.00.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### ALBION PLACE, ALLWOOD, ATHENIA.

Previous to bearing the name Albion Place, this section was known as Postville, and so designated on the public records and in legal documents. A deed bearing date November 6, 1833, was made by John H. Post to four men, one a Post, "Trustees of Postville School Association," for a schoolhouse lot on the Drift Way (Hazel street), adjoining the home of Governor Dickerson. In the early days there were several Post families here with numerous pro-



genies. "Beantown" and "Brickville" were names subsequently applied to the place which occupies a position at the extreme north end of the city and was so named nearly fifty years ago by John R. Gould, owner of the land upon which there are about 182 dwelling houses, stores, and a public school.

The Gould family is of English origin, and as a compliment to Great Britain, Albion Place was applied. The Greek and Roman name of the British Isles, as will be remembered, was *Albion*. After the death of Mr. Gould, and in 1874, his heirs made a map of the land, upon which for the first time the name appeared. In honor of their discovery of the mainland of North America in 986, one of the streets is named Norman (or Northman). Other streets are named in honor of famous men, selected by Mr. Gould. Gillies street was so named for John Gillies, a Scottish historian, author of "Ancient Greece," "Ancient World," etc. John Lambert, the great English general, and Roger Williams, the eminent divine, are remembered by street names, as also are Samuel Warren, a distinguished lawyer and author, of London, and Lord, otherwise Viscount of the Nile, Duke of Bronte, and famous as Admiral Nelson.

Shortly after the Revolution Encrease Gould had brick kilns here. In 1822 the poor farm was located on the present Hazel street. Hazel street was laid out May 13, 1796, in the following language, viz.:

Application having been made to lay out a certain Drift way, formerly called a cow patch in the old writings, which said Drift way was allowed by the Patentees of Acquackanonk for public use, and it never having been opened, the Surveyors met and agreed to open the same.

It began at Passaic river and ran over the present Crooks avenue 128 chains to the Cross line, and thence over Hazel street, as now known, to and along the brickyards of Encrease Gould, "til it intersected a road laid by Colonel John Condit, and to be 66 feet wide." The Condit road was a continuation to Mountain avenue. Subsequently that part of Hazel street between Bloomfield road and that avenue was vacated.

Governor Philemon Dickerson resided in a small stone house on what was then known as the Drift Way, or Patentees Lane, but now Hazel street. His tombstone in Cedar Lawn cemetery is inscribed:

PHILEMON DICKERSON  
Judge of the District Court of the United States  
For the District of New Jersey  
and Governor and Chancellor of the State  
Born June 26, 1788  
Died December 10, 1862.

Although the house was torn down several years ago, the site should be preserved by a stone or tablet.

The first school in Albion Place was established on Gould street, about 350 feet from Mountain avenue, in 1889. After several additions this wooden structure and its site were abandoned and an eight-room brick school erected on Mountain avenue.

The first church in Albion Place was started in the old school in 1893 as a Union church with Methodists and Presbyterians as the principal denominations, and services were held by the courtesy of Paterson clergymen, especially Dr Franklin E. Miller, of the First Presbyterian Church, Paterson, who was the first clergyman to hold services. In 1895 the Methodists built a church for themselves on Mountain avenue, known as the Belle Vista Church, and named after the estate of Catholina Lambert. The first clergyman was Rev William





Ostrander, followed by Rev. Mr. Morris, Rev. Mr. Lendrim, Rev. George Watson (who still resides in Albion Place, but who is a confined invalid) and Rev. A. N. Smith. The Presbyterians built a church for themselves in 1897, and Dr. Miller and other Paterson ministers continued to hold services in the new church.

There is no public hall in Albion Place, but meetings and social gatherings are held in the fire house. In Albion Place there are four grocery stores, one bakery, one confectionery store, one hotel, one garage, one butcher shop, two barber shops and two silk mills. The population is about 800. The only professional men residing here are: Dr. Pfester, a dentist, and Dr. William B. Gourley, lawyer, orator and politician, who is Clifton's city counsel.

*Alwood*—This name might have been significantly applied to the place a century ago, but when it was given, Plainville would have expressed the appearance of the landscape.

Speer Neighborhood was the name it bore originally, because every house but two was owned or occupied by a Speer, prominent among them being Amen John, Big John and Little Pete. About 1868 the place was named Highland, which it retained until May 1, 1874, when at a meeting held at the residence of Thomas P. Speer, it was changed to Peru, which was so incongruous to new comers, who had settled there, as well as to some of the older residents, including John A. Speer, that a meeting was held at his house to consider renaming the hamlet. During this meeting Gilbert D. Bogert was observed driving past the place. Someone stopped him and invited him in. Everybody knew Bogert, who had returned to Passaic, whence he had gone to Somerville in this State, engaged in farming eight years, and made money enough to purchase nearly all the land upon which the city of Garfield now stands. He accepted the invitation, and when called upon for that purpose, he instantly suggested Somerset, after the county of that name. This name pleased all and was adopted. Somerset continued to suit all the residents, owners of property and others, and was retained from its adoption in 1882 until supplanted by Allwood, a name having no bearing upon the landscape. The flat land bounded on the north and east at the bend thereof by Bloomfield avenue, as one goes towards Passaic, and where now are greenhouses, was in the olden time (during the eighteenth century) called the Plains.

In the next adjoining field was a famous mineral spring, which gave the name of Mineral Spring to this locality, and by which it was known far and near for more than a century. Bloomfield avenue from this spot to Passaic was laid out in 1802-05, for the sole and only purpose of access to and from the spring, whose waters possessed valuable medicinal qualities, and were bottled and barrelled in large quantities and shipped away. In addition, a sanitarium was conducted in an old stone dwelling, near the spring. Dr. Ebenezer Blatchley (*Tertius*, he added to his signature) was in charge, and for a quarter century did a good business. After his death the business was never resumed. The spring is the source of Mineral Spring brook that courses through Third Ward Park, Passaic, mistakenly written McDonald's brook, on the city map.

During the Revolutionary War the British, on the night of November 27, 1776, raided the dwelling of Jacobus Speer, taking therefrom:

	£	s.		£	s.
14 sheep .....	10	10	350 chestnut rails .....	4	10
18 geese .....		16	70 chestnut posts .....	1	15
1 watch coat .....	2				
1 gun and pistol .....	1	10		24	11
Silver neck clasp .....		10			



Jacobus Speer resided at that time on Bloomfield avenue, which was the only road then laid out in this neighborhood. Stinkers brook, used by the calves and geese, still flows to-day over the same course as it flowed in the days of '76.

Bloomfield avenue was called originally "Acquackanonk church road," and laid out November 17, 1755, previous to which there was an old Indian path. It began at the bridge near Dirk Van Gieson's house and ran easterly along the old path to Elias Freeland's new dwelling house, thence southeasterly to the present Dwas Line road, over which it went to Brook avenue to River drive, Passaic. This road is not the present one, which was relaid July 18 1796. The former road, as was often the case in early days, was laid over the poorest of land, mostly swamps, in order to save the better land for cultivation.

The present Bloomfield avenue from Lumsden's greenhouses to Nan Houten avenue, Passaic, was not laid until February 1, 1803, and for the purpose of the Minineral spring.

The road known as Kingsland road was laid out from the Kingsland paper mills in Delawanna to the Bloomfield road, Allwood, September 10, 1786, and Stone House Plains road was laid February 2, 1795. This road as first intended, and as appears from the return, commenced at the easterly end of the present Yanticaw pond and ran westerly over the land where is now that pond. On July 10, 1797, that part of the road from the beginning to Franklin avenue, Delawanna, was vacated.

The Paterson and Newark railroad was finished in 1868. The first trip being made the day before Thanksgiving Day of that year.

As with a magic wand, Speer Neighborhood was suddenly changed from a hamlet of half a dozen houses to a model little city by William L. Lyall, under the name of the Brighton Mills. In the space of a few months, streets were laid out, mills erected and houses by the dozen built, thereby increasing the population from a score to thousands. Great credit is due Mr. Lyall. The village has a store, community house, postoffice and school, and while there is no church, religious services (Protestant) are held in the community house every Sunday, conducted by the Federation of Churches, of Passaic county. The first service was held December 26, 1920, and a Sunday school started January 2, 1921.

Previous to the coming of the Brighton Mills, Allwood boasted about six scattered farm houses, a box-like affair as an apology for railroad station, without an agent or sale of tickets, excepting when a train was expected in. Not far away was a very small coal yard, always just about empty, near which of late years was the little red schoolhouse, whose play ground was the road, and whose pupils spent their candy pennies at a small store nearby. The place boasted of a postoffice established about 1808, with "Tommy" Speer its first postmaster, whose kitchen was the "office." Mail is now delivered by carrier from the Passaic office, who began March 15, 1922. The little red schoolhouse exists only in memory, as the same was abandoned early in 1922 for a modern brick structure, credit for which should be given Mr. Lyall, who was the first to not only suggest it, but made an offer of land upon which the same might be erected, gratis, after which he labored strenuously to secure erection of a modern school building, which adds much to the dignity of the place.

*Athenia*—The earliest name of this locality and by which it was known and referred to in speech, writings and public records was "Claverack," applied to it by the Hollanders, which like all names applied by them had a meaning.





"Claverack" means "clover field." When applied, the whole region was one vast field as it were of growing grass, the most of which was sweet clover, whose fragrance filled the air far and near. Here again the active, impressive hand of the Vreelands is seen, for it was none other than Enoch Vreeland who first applied the name, which clung to it for nearly two centuries.

During the Revolution, Enoch's son, Michael, was the sole and only resident here. He erected and resided in the Dutch stone house still standing along the Claverack road, at that time Garrison's lane, laid out in 1719, opposite the depot of the Paterson and Newark railroad. He was very active in all matters pertaining to the Revolutionary War, not only during that struggle, but before hostilities commenced, as he has the credit, because of his superior education, of drafting the first resolution, subsequently adopted by the county committee, setting forth the grievances of the people, because of the acts of Parliament in forcing taxes upon them without their consent. He was a carpenter by trade and erected most of the houses and barns in the neighborhood and had acquired a good education at the school farther down the lane. He died in September, 1784. The inventory of his personal estate made by two old farmer neighbors, Gerrit Speer and Cornelius Degraw, is very minute and thorough. Among the articles enumerated are:

The broon mair, Bae mair, Rad cow, Rad in wite cow, Rad and wite hiffr, Rad hiffr, Quellen well, in wolpen bar in rak, Dong fork, 2 Crakels, pith fork, 1 Scaft rand, Plagger (pleasure) slay, Washen tob, ach tob, milk tobs, 3 pals, 2 Shorn (churns), Lie (lye) kask, 2 wood bols (bowls) Bees hife, bees in honny, 4 aggers (augers), Bris (brass) wimbles, shisels, 1 Agge (adz), 1 acks (ax), Arten (earthen) basen, nak (neck) yoke, and many others curiously spelled words.

In several documents he is particular in stating that he is of "Claverack, in the Precinct of Acquackanonk." A document in possession of the writer reads as follows:

Michael E. Vreeland, in his lifetime, in the presence of Mary Purey, said he intended to give his Daughters, some particular Things, which he mentioned but never did really give to them, altho he lived some time after.

The question is whether the Daughters shall have those things or shall they go to the administrator?

They go to the administrator, for a gift of this kind cannot go by intendment, etc.

New Ark, Nov. 9, 1784.

J. O. HOFFMAN,

Attorney.

Vreeland's real estate was sold, after his death, to John Sip.

The name "Claverack" clung to it until the beginning of the Civil War, when Edo and Adrian Sip, who resided here—Adrian, in the old Michael Vreeland house, still standing on the Claverack road, near the Erie station, and Edo in the large stone house on the triangle due west of the Erie, the ancestral home of many of the Sip family—applied the name "Centreville," because it was the middle or center of the farms, which as originally laid out, reached from Passaic river to Weasel mountain. In the meantime what is now Richfield, was known and called by several names: "Cheap Josie's," "Van Winkle's" (being the names of famous tavern keepers at the crossing of the canal), and "The Canal." Until at the close of the war a returning soldier by the name of Garret Garrabrant, having discovered that it was in the center of what was known as a canal level, applied the name "Centreville," which met with popular favor, was adopted in lieu of the other names. And so it came about that two Centrevilles existed contemporously within half a mile of each, which as was natural, created confusion, uncertainty, leading to trouble. The Erie





placed the name on its first station here in 1869, but the D., L. and W., hoping to build up a new city here that would eradicate the then new hamlet of the same name on the line of its rival—the Erie railroad—adopted the name of Clifton, which was placed on its station to greet the arrival of its first train on the morning of December 14, 1870. This led to greater confusion than ever, as no one knew whether he lived in Claverack, Centreville or Clifton. Attempts were made to get the D., L. and W. to substitute Centreville for Clifton, which was refused, because there were too many Centrevilles in the territories which it served, but offering to adopt Claverack, which did not meet approval of the later settlers, because of its Dutch origin; besides, they wanted something modern and sentimental.

At this point the editor will introduce to his readers Mr. Frank Hughes, who knows more than any other man of the early history of Athenia, and of whom information was requested and kindly given. Mr. Hughes' very instructive and interesting story is told simply and briefly, although full as to details, in a letter, of which the following is a copy:

MONTCLAIR, N. J., June 2nd, 1922.

Dear Mr. Scott—The historical data about Athenia for which you telephoned while I was ill at home are as follows:

When the Newark branch of the Erie railroad was put through in 1868, Athenia was called Centerville, then only a flag station, no regular station building having been erected. My uncle, George Hughes, owned quite a large country estate there, consisting of an eighteen or twenty room house, where he entertained quite lavishly a part of the year, maintaining extensive stables and dog kennels for his guests. He was then the leading linen merchant in the United States. This part of his property comprised all of the land lying north of Claverick Road, running up to the junction of the Newark branch of the Erie and the Boonton branch of the D. L. & W. He also owned about forty-seven acres north of Claverack road and west of the Newark branch tracks, extending up to the Richfield line. At that time, his residence and the house occupied by Adrian Sip, diagonally across from where the present Erie railroad station stands, and those occupied by Adrian Post and Eliza J. Post, which were just east of the D. L. & W. railroad tracks, were the only houses there, excepting the old original Edo Sip homestead, lying west of the Erie tracks, which was then deserted and unoccupied. There were two or three other families living close by, but not in what I call Athenia. Peter Bird lived on the Peach Orchard road, almost on the Passaic city line, where he still resides.

Adrian Sip owned nearly all of the property between the Newark branch of the Erie and the D. L. & W., extending up to the Passaic city line, with the exception of a small portion owned by Eliza Post, widow of Richard Post, adjoining the Mill pond, where he had operated a small sawmill for a number of years, using this pond and the one on the other side of the D. L. & W. tracks. His house, where Eliza lived with her three sons and one daughter, was located a short distance from the mill and is still standing.

In 1871 my uncle induced my father, John Hughes, to buy a large part of his property at Centerville, taking in the part now occupied by the Quarantine Station, and all of the property east of the Erie track up to the line of what is now called Colfax avenue. He and my uncle then purchased from Adrian Sip and Eliza Post nearly all of the property south of Claverack road, running up to the Passaic city line, and my father purchased from Sip and Post nearly all of the property owned by them lying east of the D. L. & W. track, part of which is occupied by the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company's plant. In 1872-3, my father laid out nearly all of the streets at Centerville, now Athenia. He and my uncle had the present Erie railroad station erected, contributing all of the money to the Railroad Company for that purpose, with the exception of a small amount which was contributed by several Richfield residents.

My father came from the same place in Ireland as Mr. Samuel Sloan, then president of the D. L. & W. railroad, and knew him and Andrew Reasoner, the superintendent, very well, and through that acquaintance he induced them to erect a station on the Boonton branch of the D. L. & W., my father contributing the entire cost of the building of this station, which for that day was a very pretentious one. He also gave the Railroad Company outright, in addition, several acres of ground lying south of the present station, and which they now use for switching purposes.

My uncle associated with him in part of his purchase from Sip, a man by the name of Jacob Otto, a business associate, and my father associated with him two friends, William



Stitt and Thomas Chaytor. All of the streets at Centerville, now Athenia, were laid out and graded by my father, the engineering work being under John S. Strange and the grading under the late Patrick McQuire, both of Passaic. As near as I recall, my father expended about \$250,000.

He also erected in 1873-4, twelve quite large houses for that day on different parts of the property. My uncle erected three houses at the corner of Clifton avenue, or Claverack road, and Colfax avenue, named after the Democratic nominee for the Vice-Presidency. My uncle's house lay just east of these three houses, the entrance to his estate being at the corner of the brook, where it now crosses Clifton avenue, at which point he had a very pretty little lodge and a gate-keeper living there. On part of this property, there is now erected the Athenia Steel Company's plant.

As you know, both my father and uncle failed in the panic of 1874. Part of my uncle's property was mortgaged to the father of Edward Corning Clark, who at that time was president of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Hugh Cheyne, treasurer of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, purchased one of the three houses, the corner one at Colfax and Clifton avenues, from Edward Corning Clark in 1881, moving his family there shortly thereafter. It was largely due to Mr. Cheyne's efforts and influence that the present Reformed Church at Athenia was started and built, Mr. Cheyne and Mr. Clark contributing the larger part of the money for this purpose.

There was no post office, and had not been one, at Centerville up to that time. The Post Office Department refused to open one under that name on account of there being several others in the State. Mr. Cheyne called a meeting, suggested the name of Athenia after the Greek goddess Athenae, induced the Post Office Department and the Erie railroad to accept the name, which was done I think in 1882. The post office was opened and kept in the station for a long while, John A. Post, the Erie station agent being the first postmaster. The station on the D. L. & W. built by my father had always been called Clifton, and kept that name until several years after the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company's plant was erected. On account of the difference in the two names at the one place causing confusion in freight deliveries, the name of Clifton was changed also to Athenia. I think this was in 1895 or 1896.

The original maps showing the streets in Centerville, now Athenia, including the one called the Boulevard which was laid out to run from Claverack road to and through Passaic, joining the present street of that name in Passaic, are in our office at Passaic. These maps are called "Property of George Hughes" and "Map of property of William Stitt and Thomas Chaytor," in order not to mix my father's and my uncle's names together, so that in asking Arthur to look up the details, they will be under those names. I think also there are two maps under my father's name and a small one of a portion of the property was remade under my name in 1886, in order that I might act to correct titles.

The property owned jointly by my uncle and Jacob Otto afterwards passed into the hands of Otto individually, and from him by inheritance to his nephew, Otto T. Mallery, which I sold for Mallery many years after partly to the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company, and the balance being now occupied by several plants, including the Richardson Scale Company, and to a man named Roberts, who opened up the streets and afterwards sold it to different owners.

The mail at that time for Richfield was handled through the Athenia post office in the station, Richard Lawson, the blacksmith at Richfield, being the mailcarrier to and from Athenia, carrying the mail up to the time of his death between the two places. Richfield had a post office previous to this, which had been and was afterwards maintained in what was known as Kesse's Hotel and grocery store.

On part of what is now known as the Quarantine property there was in 1873-74 quite a large brown stone quarry. This my father leased to the Abbotts, who conducted a marble yard at Passaic, and who operated the stone quarry for some years.

The first store in Athenia was started by Isaac Van Dillon, who before starting the store had been a worker in the silk mill and who began after leaving the silk mill by running a pedlar's wagon. The two large mills which were built on the Post property just east of the Lackawanna railroad, were built by my father, one to be occupied as a lace factory to be operated by Jules Salembier, the other as a silk mill to be operated by Ferdinand Grossenbacher. Grossenbacher and Salembier had both agreed to buy the mills. Both of them failed before the machinery was finally installed, and for a number of years the Salembier mill was unoccupied. Grossenbacher afterwards interested James McCreery & Company of New York, who furnished the capital, put in the machinery and operated the silk mill for a number of years. They vacated it and afterwards it was destroyed by fire in 1887. The Salembier mill remained idle for years, until I took the station at Athenia as station agent and telegraph operator in 1882. By looking up my own biography you will find that I succeeded in getting this mill in operation in 1884, leasing it to J. P. Lange, afterwards of the Botany Worsted Mills, who was financed by a capitalist named Augustus Blumenthal. They oper-





ated this for two or three years as a hard rubber manufacturing plant, calling it the Clifton Rubber Company.

The house occupied and owned by Hugh Cheyne, at the corner of Clifton avenue and Colfax avenue, was destroyed by fire a short time after his death, the family having removed from Athenia, I think, some time in 1895.

Jacob Tome was at that time the richest man in Maryland, and he left the larger part of his estate to endow what is now the Jacob Tome School and College at Port Deposit, Cecil county, Maryland. He had been my father's friend and banker for a great many years, and my father borrowed money from him after he separated from Stitt and Chaytor, and that portion of the property was then mapped in the name of Jacob Tome, he holding it as trustee. This map is also in our Passaic office.

Athenia was a most inviting locality—truly rural. There were three old farm houses along the only road—Claverack—with an old saw mill and pond, ponds fed by Weasel brook. The beauty of the place was blotted out, as well as the pond, when the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad placed its road on the unsightly, tall embankment seen to-day. Nearly the entire territory was owned by the Post and Sip families, whose fair fields, stretching as far as the eye could reach, made of it a Claverack—clover field—in very fact.

Mr. Tome was followed by Messrs. George and John Hughes, who made great improvements by laying out streets and erecting houses. Mr. Frank Hughes (son of John), now of Montclair, was later (1882) the agent of the D., L. and W. railroad, whose first train—the Denville accommodation—on its way to Hoboken, in charge of conductor Woddock, of Boonton, stopped here at 8.32 o'clock a. m., December 14, 1870, two years after the first train on the Paterson and Newark railroads had come to a stop at Athenia station of that road, in charge of Mr. John Post, agent.

Another man who worked hard to put Athenia (or Centreville) on the map, was Hugh Cheyne, who, more than any other man did, devoted his time and money to make a village here. Back in 1868 he was instrumental in organizing the Reformed Church of Centreville (see churches), purchased the land, erected a church with the Sunday school room annexed, built horse sheds, out-buildings, fences, etc., and on December 23, 1882, conveyed all to the congregation for one dollar; or in other words, made a gift. He was the means of having a public school located here and interested himself in erecting brick houses with pretty surroundings. But the blight of Black Friday and the panic of 1873 put an end, if not to the hopes, at least to all activities of Mr. Cheyne and other enterprising spirits, all of whom departed to other scenes, leaving old Centreville to hang together until about 1909, when the developments being made in Clifton proper, by the hustlers from Passaic, began to be felt here, arousing the interest of the older inhabitants, to the aid of whom and others these same hustlers extended a helping hand until improvements began once more, which have been continued to date, when there is every indication of great growth. It is a pretty place of restful homes of a select people, which will be more and more sought after.

At present the United States of America has a cattle quarantine at Athenia of about twenty-four acres of land, purchased in 1900 for \$14,614, and upon which a number of buildings were erected. The entire property is laid out symmetrically, giving an attractive appearance and lending a dignity to this locality, which one would not expect to find in this particular business.

Clifton proper is pushing out toward Athenia along the southerly side of Clifton avenue and to-day it is difficult to tell where the one stops and the other begins, while from the east on both sides of Peach Orchard road (continuation of Paulison avenue, Passaic) the influence of that city is seen in the hundreds of homes just outside of her corporate limits (so circumscribed as to



rob her of them) for the benefit of which a large modern school approaches completion in the woods on Highland avenue. This growth was commenced after the great Manhattan Rubber Mills began operations nearby in Passaic, followed by other mills, which in a few years will make of this a thickly settled community.

At the present time Athenia has two railroads, two factories, coal yard, bakery, one general store, one stationery and cigar store, one job printing shop, one hotel (opposite the Erie station), one public school, No. 6, and one church, all on the main street, or Claverack road; a walk through which failed to show the writer the sign of a lawyer or doctor, which may indicate the peacefulness and healthfulness of the little hamlet, which with the march of improvements, will soon lose its identity. A bus line operates to and from Passaic, through Clifton proper.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### CENTREVILLE AT THE CANAL AND RICHFIELD.

The section in and about the junction of the Bloomfield and Clifton avenues, where the same is crossed by the canal, has been known as Log School Corner, Van Winkle's Tavern, The Canal, Cheap Josie's, named for Josephine Van Winkle (who for years conducted a wide open house and retailed her wet goods at ruinous rates), Centreville and Kesse's, who for a long period ran the tavern which became so well known as to make unnecessary to add the word after the owner's name. During the canal's prosperous days this place was one of the best known and successful of any on that waterway. Of recent years the locality became Richfield.

During the past seventy-five years the name Centreville has clung to and been applied to the locality on maps and county atlas. Among the inhabitants, however, this name was so little in their minds, that no objection was offered when the same was given to another settlement (now Athenia) situated about a mile away to the northeast. There was a grocery store connected with the tavern, blacksmith shop, Methodist church, school and other facilities here for the accommodation of the many farmers hereabouts.

The Morris canal extending through Clifton was constructed by the Morris Canal and Banking Company, incorporated by a special act of our Legislature, approved December 31, 1824. The canal was constructed from Easton to Newark and completed August 16, 1831. It was extended to Jersey City in 1836. Total cost was eleven millions. First boat passed through Rockaway lock (being the first lock so used) in twelve minutes. There were twelve planes, seventeen locks. Clifton is on the longest plane or level. The engineer was Ephraim Beach. Extreme elevation of the canal is 914. Its construction was the greatest engineering feat of that period. In 1844 the canal was sold under foreclosure of the Dutch mortgage (so-called because controlled by Rotterdam bankers) for \$750,000, and purchased by Williamson, Whitehead and Bryant for one million dollars. The State of Indiana, which was a creditor to the extent of several hundred thousands of dollars, and every stockholder, lost every dollar. Subsequently, a reorganization was effected and business resumed and continued until May 4, 1871, when a perpetual lease was made to Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, still in effect, but all traffic since abandoned. This seemed strange in view of the increase of tolls which were: 1845, \$19,000; 1846, \$51,000; 1870, \$391,550. The closing of the canal has proved a great loss to old Centreville.





The present hotel at the northeasterly corner of Clifton avenue had been a tavern site for the past century. During the years of prosperity of the Morris canal the place then and for many years after was known as Van Winkle's Tavern, being owned and conducted by Abraham Van Winkle, who was popular among boatmen, who made extra efforts to reach the place or near it, to tie up for the night, particularly Saturday night, with the prospect of a jolly time at this old hostelry in the Sabbath day, which was the time when, not only boatmen, but middle aged men, young men and boys, with a sprinkling of "fast" girls from Newark or other city, would make merry in all conceivable ways. After Van Winkle's death, his widow Josephine ran a wide open house, where no curb was put on any act, word, scene or thing. Liquor, of course, added to the hilarity and fun, and because no license or other restriction was placed upon its sale, the best and purest of Scotch whiskey sold for six and one-quarter cents a glass, at which price rivers of it flowed over the bar, for years dispensed by whom the boys nick-named "Cheap Josie." And yet withal no untoward crime was ever committed here in those days, only the escapades of those who went there for and really had a good time, which the younger men of the farms looked forward to with greatest pleasure. As a rule, however, young boys were instructed by their parents to stay away. One of such boys, now nearing the century mark, in speaking of this, said to the editor:

But the temptation was so great and the desire so overpowering that I made a rope ladder which after saying good-night to mother, I would suspend from my bed room window and use to reach the ground. It did not take me long to reach the enchanted tavern, where I would simply be a spectator until a very late hour, and then run home to bed via the rope ladder.

In slavery days this was one of the public whipping posts. Another aged man informed the editor that in his boyhood days he witnessed many of these whippings. One in particular was of two black slaves of John B. Van Riper who, in a trial before 'Squire Vreeland, had been convicted of stealing and sentenced to submit to a public whipping of twenty lashes with a cow hide whip upon the bare back, rum to be rubbed over the cuts at the end of each ten lashes. They were about twenty years of age, and being bound arms and legs, were placed with faces toward a post to which they were tied. The constable, Richard Jacobus, stepped forward with a big rawhide whip in hand and at a signal from the 'squire began to lash the poor creatures unmercifully. Every stroke cut through the flesh and brought blood. At the end of the tenth lash there was a halt to rub in the rum, which one of the darkies submitted to while moaning most pitifully from his suffering. The other fellow would not remain quiet long enough for the rubbing on of the rum, to which he objected, whereupon his old master cried out: "Lick him 'til he cries for rum." The constable resumed his lashes, of which thirty-six were laid on before the poor fellow faintly cried for rum. By this time his whole back was a mass of lacerated bleeding flesh.

*Richfield*—This community, lying on both sides of the Morris canal, about one mile square, is well named, being by far the richest truck farm garden land in this State, which was made so by nature, and since improved by lavish addition of fertilizers by generations of farmers and gardeners. Acres upon acres are continually under cultivation. Protected by the high cliffs of the Weasel mountain on the northwest, with a southerly exposure, vegetation thrives in winter, protected by glass coverings, if necessary, as well as in other seasons. All kinds of table vegetables are raised for Newark and New York markets, to which they are carted daily. The scene presented by these numer-





ous vegetable farms is very attractive, particularly when, from a vantage point, large numbers of the gardens may be included in the view. Necessarily the community is of the industrious class—no laggards or lazy bones are tolerated. The work entails patience and long hours. From the first peep of day until the last glimmering rays of the sun cast the shadows of mountain over the landscape, men, boys, women and girls may be seen actively engaged at their tasks. Great pride is taken by the owners in their gardens and produce. Their ambition is excellence in all their crops, which for years have been looked upon as the best on the market, where they are sought after in preference to those of other places.

It is safe to say that the residences, barns and outbuildings of Richfield are equal to any and superior to many communities. The houses have all modern improvements, while the teams of horses and wagons have given place to auto trucks and tractors, whereby much time as well as labor are saved.

These families are not only industrious, but frugal and thrifty, in which they at all times show good judgment in what is of more importance than anything else, and that is management of their affairs, which is illustrated in the case of two families known to the writer, whose incomes were the same. At the end of fifteen years, one owned his home, with money in the bank, while the other had nothing, owing to the impotency of the wife to manage. The success of these Richfield gardeners should be credited in nearly every instance to their wives, who knew how to manage, with the inevitable result that, with scarcely an exception, every one has not only made big money, but saved every dollar that was not absolutely necessary to be spent, so that to-day they are more than prepared for a rainy day. And yet they do not become idlers, because that is unknown to them, and besides, the business has a fascination which nothing else can afford. Even the older men and women keep at it for life, and are able to do so because, although the work may be tedious, it is not hard and, therefore, does not wear out the bodily functions.

Formerly this neighborhood was an ordinary farming one, where hay, grains, potatoes and cabbage only were raised and dairying carried on. The first public milkman was Henry Hamilton, up at the Notch, who ran a milk route in Paterson. His three daughters cared for, fed and milked the score of cows, while the men of the family attended to the farming.

Perhaps it may be well to state here that the vegetable gardens were started by Germans who, when they settled here some sixty years ago, could not speak English. Among them was George Plog, who came with his parents to Paterson in 1857. In 1864 he purchased of Henry T. L. Hillman about forty acres, upon part of which he and his wife—he eighty-one and she seventy-five—now reside, with their children near by. Previous to that time a Mr. Mier had attempted to raise vegetables for market, but gave it up to quarry stone, in which he failed also, and sold his farm to Hillman, who made money in gardening, which encouraged Mr. Plog to do likewise. He also succeeded and made money.

One of the greatest problems to-day is that of obtaining horse manure for fertilizing. The auto having displaced the horse, has already led to great shortage of that which was and is the best fertilizer ever known for vegetables. Until 1887 this manure was delivered by canal boats, which had been the method for half a century. When the canal closed the manure was obtained at the stables of breweries, where scores of horses were kept. When the auto came even this supply was cut off, and now it is very scarce and expensive.



Speaking of the canal, Mr. George Plog remembers when a boy and slept in the garret of the Hillman house, which stood near the tow path, that he was often awakened by the loud talking and shouting of the boatmen, particularly Monday mornings, when twenty or more boats which had been held up at the lock above, would start off, one after another. In particular he heard: "Where is Cheap Josie's." Cheap Josie was the name of a woman who conducted a notorious tavern, where now is the Gladis Tavern, east of the bridge crossing the canal at Clifton avenue.

The farmers of Richfield, in order to advance their mutual interests and to keep in the van of the line of modern methods of farming in general, and of garden truck farming in particular, took steps to organize, by filing a certificate of incorporation in the county clerk's office, dated August 17, 1911, signed by William H. Smith, Garrett C. Gould, Herbert Ackerman, Louis C. Conradi and Herman Rubins. The agent selected was Louis C. Conradi, whose residence was selected as the office of the grange. This is the most popular and successful organization of its kind in the State, alive to the advancement of its members in their business. It is an organization very much alive, holding regular stated and special meetings, in addition to carrying on the work through committees.

The first settlers here being Hollanders, agreed among themselves that there were at least two important necessities which they must acquire, in order to succeed. One was a church of their own faith and a school where their own children might acquire at least a rudimentary education. They found the first in the Reformed at (now) Passaic, which they joined; the second was filled by establishing their own, which was found useful also as a town hall for the discussion of National, State, county and township questions, as the same affected themselves or their locality.

This first seat of learning for this section was a log schoolhouse, one story high, which stood on the southerly side of Notch road, where the same would cross the present tow path of the canal. It was here meetings were held in 1774 and 1775 to protest against the acts of Parliament in attempting to impose taxes without the consent of those who had to pay them, and to elect a delegate to attend a meeting at Acquackanonk Bridge, for the purpose of forming a township committee to assist the county committee in opposing the enforcement of these and other obnoxious laws. This log schoolhouse was in use from the date of its erection, 1728, until after 1800. Reference is made to it in the "Return" for the laying out of what is now Bloomfield road from Notch road to Third river, February 11, 1802, as follows:

Surveyors met at the house of John Sip, Acquackanonk, and laid a road from the log school house, so-called, to the stone bridge. Beginning fifty links southerly from the corner of the lot Jacob Doremus bought of Van Wagoner, near the log school house.

One of the oldest teachers here was a Doremus, who was succeeded by Abraham Vreeland and many others during one hundred and more years of its existence, which came to a close in 1830 and the land whereon it stood was taken for canal purposes.

A new one-story frame schoolhouse was erected in 1832 on the westerly side of the canal and notherly side of Clifton avenue, between the house of Abraham Van Winkle and Conrad Ploch, where it remained for many years, until a more modern schoolhouse was erected on the opposite side of the avenue.

















